PALL MALL GAZETTE

An Evening Newspaper and Review.

No. 7424.—Vol. XLIX. *WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 2, 1889.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY, at 1.30 and 7.30, THE BABES IN THE WOOD. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, C. Lauri, jun., Stevens, Leno, Griffiths Bros., Andrews, Inch, Fleon, Henderson, Stanley, Dezano, and Harry Payne; Mesdames Florence Dysart, Duggin, Mayer, ÆNEA, Grey, Charteris, and Harriet Vernon.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
MACBETH, TO-NIGHT, at 7.45. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth, Miss Ellen Terry. Messrs. Alexander, Wenman, Tyars, Webster, Howe, Haviland, Harvey, Johnson, Raynor, Dutram, Lacy, Archer, &c.; Misses Marriott, Seaman, Desborough, Coleridge, Ivor, &c. Box Office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram.—LYCEUM.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. Haddon Chambers, entitled 'CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.50, by THE DUCHESS OF BAYSWATER AND CO. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Wyndham.)
EVERY EVENING, at 9.0, BETSY. (Last Nights.) Preceded by, at 8.10, THE DOWAGER. Doors open at 7.45. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 3. Doors open 2.30.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
THE DON.—RETURN and REAPPEARANCE of Mr. J. L. TOOLE. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale's successful Comedy, THE DON. Mr. J. L. TOOLE, supported by powerful company. Preceded, at 7.45, by DEAF AS A POST. Doors open at 7.15. Prices as usual. Box-office open at 11 to 5.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE of THE DON, EVERY SATURDAY, at 2 o'clock. THE DON, 207th representation To-night.

SAVOY THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Manager, R. D'Oyly Carte.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.30 by MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open continuously from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, THE SILVER FALLS. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Royce Carleton, Eardley Turner, J. Carne, C. Eaton, James East, H. Russell; Mesdames Millward, O. Nethersole, G. Esmond, A. Dairolles, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, Farce. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.0.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Mr. Thomas Thorne, Sole Lessee and Manager.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 248th Time. Preceded at 7.45 by THE BROTHERS. Mr. Thomas Thorne; Messrs. William Rignold, Fred Thorne, Cyril Maude, J. S. Blythe, Scott Buist, F. Grove, Frank Gillmore, and Mr. H. B. Conway; Mesdames Gladys Homfrey, M. A. Giffard, Banister, B. Harrison, Arnold, R. McNeill, Bowman, Adlercron, Maunders, and Winifred Emery. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.20.

GAIETY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 7.20, FIRST MATE At 8.30, FAUST UP TO DATE. Miss Florence St. John, Miss Violet Cameron, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Fanny Robina, Miss Jenny M'Nulty, Miss Lillian Price, Miss M. Jones, Miss F. Levey, Miss A. Young, Miss E. Greville, Miss M. Love; Mr. E. J. Lonnen, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. E. Haslem, and Mr. George Stone.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in London, constructed entirely with concrete and iron absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout with electricity.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A. W. Pinero's New Three Act Domestic Drama, SWEET LAVENDER. 291st Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, F. Kerr, H. Reeves Smith, Sant Matthews, Prince Miller; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Blanche Horlock. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats at the Libraries and Box-office, open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.

GLOBE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Richard Mansfield.)
PRINCE KARL.—EVERY EVENING, at 8.45, PRINCE KARL. Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Frankau, Mr. Vivian, &c.; Madame Carlotta Leclercq, Miss May Whitty, Miss Glidden, and Miss Beatrice Cameron. Preceded, at 8, by EDITHA'S BURGLAR. Miss Lily Bowman, Mr. D. H. Harkins, and Mr. Lionel Brough. Box office open daily 10 to 5. Doors open 7.30.

STRAND THEATRE.
(Under the management of Mr. C. H. Hawtrey.)
By arrangement with Mr. Willie Edouin.)
TO-NIGHT will be performed, a Burlesque in Three Acts, entitled ATALANTA, at 9 o'clock. Mr. Frank Wyatt, Mr. Tom Squire, Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, and Mr. Willie Warde; Miss Muriel Aubrey, Miss Carlotta Zerbini, Misses S. and G. Baring, and Miss Marie Linden. Preceded, at 8.10, by A HIGHLAND LEGACY, by Mr. Brandon Thomas. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 3 o'clock. Box-office open from Ten to Five.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh.)
(Under the management of Mrs. John Wood.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.0 (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare), LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, adapted by Sydney Grundy, and entitled MAMMA. 91st Performance. Preceded at 8 by BOX AND COX. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10. Telephone 3,031. EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, Shaftesbury Avenue.
(Proprietor, Mr. John Lancaster.)
THIS EVENING, at 7.45, A HUSBAND IN CLOVER. At 8.15, THE LADY OF LYONS. Miss Wallis, Mesdames Robertha Erskine, H. Leigh, Annie Rose, Lamballe; Messrs. Arthur Stirling, Bassett Roe, Allen Thomas, Matthew Brodie, Charles Arnold, Herberte Basing, George Seldon, &c. and Forbes Robertson.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, DOROTHY. 832nd Performance. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Florence Perry, H. Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. At 7.30, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mr. H. Watkin.)
TO-DAY at 2, and TO-NIGHT at 8.15, NADGY.—Christmas Edition of Chassaigne and Murray's New Comic Opera. New Songs, New Dances, New Business. Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and powerful company. Chorus and Orchestra of 100, conducted by Mr. John Crook. Preceded in the evening at 7.30 by QUITS. Doors open at 1.30 and 7.15; Box-office open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock. Telephone 3,241. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-DAY and EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2 o'clock. Children half price.—R. D'Albertson, Acting Manager.

JODRELL THEATRE, Great Queen-street, Long-acre, W.C.
Sole Lessee ..... Mrs. Churchill Jodrell.
Manager ..... Colonel H. J. Sargent.
TO-NIGHT at 8.30, SEVENTH APPEARANCE in London of PATTI ROSA, American Comedienne, in a new play, entitled "BOB." Box-office open daily 10 to 5,

DIABOLIC AND YET DIVINE.

Mr. Frederic Harrison yesterday opened the New Year with one of those interesting literary performances which always remind us of nothing so much as the strange Hindoo rites in which the idol after being worshipped with divine honours in the morning is in the evening flung with every demonstration of insult into the nearest river. In Mr. Harrison's case the process is reversed. He begins with insult. He ends by adoration. The first part of his New Year's address was devoted to a vehement and unsparing condemnation of all that Humanity is doing. Everywhere he descries nothing but a loathsome Imperialism oppressing the nations, or a vampire civilization exploiting vast continents. The governing classes, which in democratic countries include all the chosen representatives of Humanity, are sacrificing themselves to militarism and war. The trading and literary classes, the custodians of the tongue and of the pocket of Humanity, are in an equally deplorable condition. "Commerce and journalism were everywhere the dogs of war "clamouring for its spoils." Humanity, in short, judging from Mr. Harrison's survey, is everywhere doing that which it ought not to do, and leaving undone that which it ought to do. It is little better than a lunatic cannibal, a millionfold multiplied Whitechapel murderer, compounded of lust and cruelty, and cunning and bloodthirst, whose most ~~dis~~tinctive achievement in our time is the "crushing, demoralizing, and degrading the "African races." And when the eloquent Positivist has roused us up to a fierce detestation of this monster miscalled man, and made us almost feel ashamed that we have any part or lot in the accursed race, he suddenly turns round, and then in tones of profound reverence exhorts us all to fall down and worship the loathly phantom against which he has just been exciting our passionate indignation. *Credo quia impossibile*, is less paradoxical than the Positivist watchword, "Diabolical and therefore Divine."

At the beginning God is said to have created man in His own image, and down to our times men have continually been remaking their Gods in their own image. But was there ever a sect of devil worshippers in all India which fashioned a deity more hideously false to every ideal of the faithful than the idol which Mr. Harrison invites us to fall down and worship. If there was one sect more than another to which Humanity must appear diabolic rather than divine that sect is the Church of Humanity. All Churches are given to much abuse of the old Adam, but this Church alone, which outvies all the others in anathematizing him, invokes us to select the odious creature as a special object of devotion. There is so much that is admirable and useful in Mr. Harrison's address that we regret it should be turned into ridicule by so paradoxical a conclusion. A masterly and strenuous plea for religion as the saving element in human life, and the enforcement of a lofty ethical standard, which is Christian in all but in name, deserve a better fate than to end in this whimsical anti-climax. Recognizing as we always do with gratitude the services which Mr. Harrison renders to Christianity, our very sense of obligation to him makes us regret that he can offer us no nobler ideal of worship than the race which with vulture beak is tearing out the vitals of Africa, and cursing Europe with the upas shadow of universal militarism.

Mr. Harrison tells us that he and his friends are all for turning religion to this actual world. They could not be engaged in better work. But why should they fall foul of those who have been busy about the same business for the last nineteen centuries? They admit the power of Christianity over the moral life of the individual. Do they not see that it is only because this foundation has been laid that the realization of their ideal of applying religion to the industrial and political life of mankind has become possible? Granting all that they say concerning the failure of Christianity to transform the Old Adam, that is no reason for worshipping the unregenerate creature, or for abusing the agency which has failed only because it has not been applied. What the Positivists are trying to do is to apply Christian principles to the organized and public life of man. It is a good work and one that is much needed. But why disfigure and caricature what they are doing by this objurgation of Christianity, which is about as reasonable as a denunciation of education because half mankind can neither read nor write? Mr. Harrison, as much as any one, wants to transform Humanity far more than to worship it. All that is good in his system is a direct outgrowth and development of Christianity. Why can he not go on developing and applying without quarrelling with his spiritual ancestors?

THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND THE PUBLIC RATES.

By his Eminence Cardinal Manning.

The following fifty reasons why the voluntary schools of England ought to share the school rates have been handed to us for publication by his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster:—

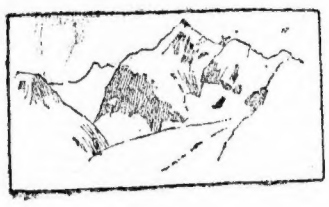
1. Because all who pay rates ought to share in the benefit of the rates.
2. Because to compel payment and to exclude from participation is political injustice.
3. Because to offer participation upon conditions known beforehand to be of impossible acceptance is wilful and deliberate exclusion.
4. Because to offer education either without Christianity or with indefinite Christianity to the people of England—of whom the great majority are definitely and conscientiously Christian—is a condition known beforehand to be of impossible acceptance.
5. Because to confer the exclusive control and enjoyment of the education rate on the Board schools alone is to create a grievance of conscience like that of the old Church rates. The great majority of the people of England, who conscientiously refuse both education without Christianity and schools of indefinite Christianity, are now compelled to pay rates for the support of such schools.
6. Because it is at variance with fact to say that the Act of 1870 was founded upon the exclusion of voluntary schools from the rates. On this point it was silent. The voluntary schools are not excluded from the public revenues; whether from the Treasury or from the rates, matters not. In principle it is all one.
7. Because the public money, whether by grant or rate, is exclusively given for the secular instruction in elementary schools.
8. Because it is contrary to reason and to fact to say that the public money is given for religious teaching, or used for religious teaching. The utmost received by a voluntary school is only one-half of its maintenance. In the great majority of cases it is less. This is not enough to pay even for the secular teaching alone. The Government buys the secular elementary teaching at a greatly reduced price, and, as compared with Board schools, at an almost nominal price.
9. Because the 14,000 voluntary schools save the public revenue at least £700,000 a year.
10. Because, if they were extinguished, it would cost the country at least £30,000,000 to buy sites and build the schools necessary to replace them; and an annual increase of rate amounting to no less than £2,000,000 for maintenance.
11. Because they are the only safeguard of the rights and conscience both of parents and children.
12. Because they embody the freedom of the people to educate themselves in opposition to the pagan and revolutionary claim that the educator of the people is the State.
13. Because the Christian people of England never have given up, never can give up, this natural and Christian liberty of conscience. The Act of 1870 did not spring from their will, nor does it represent their mind.
14. Because, until Christianity, full and definite, made England to be one and Christian, there was no England. The only England known to history and to the world is Christian England, which has been perpetuated by the Christian conscience of the people until the schools of 1870 departed from the education of our forefathers.
15. Because so little does the Board school system represent the mind or will of the people that not more than a fourth entitled to vote take the trouble to vote at the election of the School Boards.
16. Because the Christian schools at this time are 14,000, and the Board schools, after seventeen years, with the borrowing of £17,000,000 and the annual expenditure of £3,000,000, are only 4,000; and the children attending the Christian schools are 2,000,000, and those attending Board schools are 1,000,000.
17. Because the school rate is denied to the great majority of the English people, and given only to a minority. This is truly sectarian legislation.
18. Because the school boards are without precedent or parallel in English law. First, a school board is a corporation in perpetual flux. Secondly, it is a trust with enormous command of public money. But the trustees come and go every three years, and no one is personally liable for laches, waste, or mal-administration. Moreover, there is practically no audit till the money is spent, and the mismanagement beyond remedy.
19. Because the administration of the Board schools, under the encouragement of the Department, has exceeded the limits of elementary education, confounded the distinction of primary and secondary schools, and provided higher education for those who are able to pay for the better education of their children out of the rates which are paid by the poor.
20. Because there is practically no limit to the expenditure of the Boards.
21. Because the Christian schools receive of Government only what they can earn by their efficiency, from the parliamentary grant alone. The Board schools likewise receive this, and they hold and enjoy also the school rate, from which the Christian schools are absolutely excluded. This inequality renders the administration of the Act of 1870 unequal, and therefore unjust.
22. Because the efficiency of the Christian schools, tested by the fierce competition of the last seventeen years, shows that they are equal to the Board schools

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE CAUCASUS.

Fifteen years have elapsed since Mr. Crawford Grove wrote in the *Frosty Caucasus* that the Caucasus could not at present be considered as set in order, swept and garnished for travellers. Though it still cannot claim to be "garnished" with hotels, yet the country has changed much since the time when Mr. Grove travelled through it. Under Russian rule the country has become settled and quiet. Even the Suanetians, who only a very few years ago fully justified the title of "Savage Suanetia," given to their country seem to have entirely given up their taste for homicide. Dread of punishment by the Russians (Mr. Grove says, in 1873) would usually prevent them from suppressing a stranger; but, he adds, "they are an impulsive people, and may, if excited, be carried away by their feelings and cut a traveller's head off, yielding to a strong natural yearning, and deaf for the moment to the promptings of self-interest." All this is changed now; travel through Suanetia is now a simple matter unattended with any danger. Mr. Clinton Dent, who rode across Suanetia last August with a single attendant, met with "no difficulty worth mentioning," and this is the common verdict of all recent travellers.

Whether the Caucasus is ever likely to become a second Switzerland, a sort of overflow playground of Europe, must depend mainly on the extension of one of the two railways which at present exist to some point nearer the heart of the mountains. Messrs. Cook already advertise "circular tours" by railway on the northern side of the range to Vladikafkas, and thence over the Daniel Pass to Tiflis; but this route does not go near the giant peaks of the chain. Though it must be some time before the ordinary English tourist can travel with any comfort off the main routes of the Caucasus, the country is yearly being more and more opened up by English mountaineers and sportsmen. Some thirty years ago English climbers practically discovered Switzerland; without them Zermatt would have remained hidden in its valley, and the Aeggischorn and Bel alp would still be unknown. Possibly the exploiting of the Caucasus may have the same effect. If this is the case, a result much to be regretted will be, that some of the last remaining examples in Europe of patriarchal life will inevitably be swept away.

It is a satisfaction to most Englishmen to feel that their countrymen have been the pioneers of exploration in every part of the world; in the exploration of the Caucasus, too, they have not been found wanting. It is easy to scoff at expeditions to the North Pole and attempts to reach the tops of hitherto inaccessible mountains. For all that, England cannot afford to spare this spirit of adventure in her sons. The same spirit turned into a more profitable channel has given her India and her colonies, and her consequent prestige among the peoples of the world. This autumn has been notable in the Caucasus for the very terrible accident which resulted in the loss of Mr. W. F. Donkin and Mr. Harry Fox, with their two guides, but it has also seen the ascent of practically all the remaining giants of the range. That some fatal accident has befallen Mr. Donkin's party, there is, unfortunately, no room to doubt. The precise nature of the accident no one can know at present, and perhaps never will know. The whole party has perished together, presumably when roped, and consequently at some high level. That they have been swept away by an avalanche seems the most plausible theory, but any speculation on the subject must necessarily be idle. All search possible this year was made under the guidance of Mr. Phillipps-Wolley, who was fortunately on the spot when it was first known that the party was missing. But heavy snowfalls have now occurred over the whole district, and any further search this year has for some time past been impossible. Early next spring the Alpine Club will organize a search party, and many offers of personal assistance have already been made. To some relations and friends it may be a melancholy satisfaction to learn further details and recover the bodies of the dead ones, but others must feel that no tomb can equal in solemnity the grand peak under which they lie.



DYCH-TAN.
North-east arête.

> There let us leave them; for their shroud the snow,
> For funeral lamps they have the planets seven,
> For a great sign the icy stair shall go
> Between the heights to heaven.

Though we can only speculate as to the nature of the accident, it is possible to fix with some certainty the part where it occurred. On the 25th of August last we know that the party were encamped in the Dumala Glen to the south of Bezingi. On the 26th and 27th they were away in the mountains, and a native who was with them reported that they returned in high spirits, having evidently made a successful expedition. Various surmises have been put about during the last few weeks as to this expedition. Mr. Clinton Dent and Mr. Phillipps-Wolley both considered it probable that the party had succeeded in ascending Dych-Tan. All doubts have, however, now been set at rest by the arrival in England within the last few days of Mr. Donkin's diary, written up to the 28th of August last. From this it appears that on the 26th an attempt was made on Dych-Tan by the north-east arête. This route proved impossible, and the party crossed the shoulder of Dych-Tan to the Mishirgi Glacier. There they slept, and on the 27th recrossed the shoulder of Dych-Tan to their camp. On the 28th of August Mr. Fox wrote a letter in German to the interpreter Riegio, which was conveyed to him by a native messenger, instructing him to meet the party at Karaoul, and beginning: "Wir sind über die Bergen nach Karaoul gegangen." The 28th and 29th of August were spent in preparing provisions for a long journey, and on the 30th the party started up the moraine of a glacier coming down from Dych-Tan. Footmarks were found on this moraine by Mr. Phillipps-Wolley and followed by him for a considerable distance. The diary tells us that the object of the expedition was to cross the south-west arête of Dych-Tan, and to make the ascent of that mountain by the southern face. With this the diary ends.

ELBRUZ.

Before this year comparatively few ascents had been made in the Caucasus. In 1868 Mr. Douglas Freshfield made the first ascent of Elbruz 18,431 feet in height or about 3,000 ft. higher than Mont Blanc, and of Kasbek a peak over hanging the Dariel pass. In 1873 Mr. Crawford Grove repeated the ascent of Elbruz, and made various minor expeditions. From 1873 no new ascents were made until 1885 when Herr Dechy (a Hungarian member of the English Alpine

within one or two per cent., or even within a few decimal points. The richest schools are only on a parity with the poorest.

23. Because no reason can be assigned for excluding the Christian schools from the school rate which would not equally exclude the Board schools. The reading of the Bible in Board schools is paid for by rate, for Board schools have no money but public money. Christian schools buy sites, build schools, maintain teachers out of private contributions, and sell good and efficient secular education to Government for half-price.

24. Because no reason can be found for excluding Christian schools from the rates, but that they are Christian. If this be true, the Board schools, by their own confession, are not Christian. But they claim to be religious; but if not Christian, of what religion? The religion of the Bible in any sense but its own: with explanation, chronological, etymological, ethnographical, but not Christian, and by anybody except clergyman, minister, priest, rabbi, or anybody duly trained and taught to know the meaning of the Bible.

25. Because this means either that the Bible has no sense of its own, or no sense ascertainable by us; or, again, that Christian children must be robbed of Christian education because Churchmen and Dissenters cannot agree as to what Christianity is.

26. Because as yet the Legislature of this country has never pronounced that the religion of Board schools is the maximum of ascertainable Christianity. On the contrary, it has refrained from even discussing questions of religious controversy. It excludes them all, and confines itself to the secular education of the people, leaving to them full liberty of faith and conscience.

27. Because, for that reason, the Act of 1870 is not the last word on national education, much less is it a "settlement" or a final education law. The Legislature had no intention of arming a minority with power to destroy the schools of the majority of the English people. But such is the avowed policy and intention of the Birmingham school and its adherents.

28. Because the inequalities and injustice of this dual system, and the damage and retarding of education by friction and collision, have become so evident that some higher and more comprehensive education law is absolutely necessary.

29. Because the late Royal Commission affirmed that the time is come for such higher and larger legislation.

30. Because the Commission, by the report of its majority, fully recognized the dangerous inequalities under which the voluntary schools suffer, and recommended the extension of the local education rate to the maintenance of all elementary schools.

31. Because the unwillingness to accept of rate-aid, manifested by the Conference at the National Society by a division of 65 as against 45, was founded upon a fear of interference with the independent management of voluntary schools. Where public money is received there must be public audit, inspection, and a share in management. This is already exercised by the Department of the Committee of Privy Council in virtue of Government grants. Some such defined or proportionate share of management, under similar conditions, by local authorities, would in no way diminish the independence of voluntary schools in matters of religion and morals.

32. Because at this moment the denominational Reformatory and Industrial Schools are visited and inspected by the Government Departments with perfect peace and acquiescence on the part of the voluntary managers. These schools are already transferred to the counties.

33. Because when the County Councils are formed and are in activity, the managers of voluntary schools will see that not only justice, but their own safety will depend upon some further legislation which shall be equal, uniform, and common to all.

34. Because the objections of the friends of the present board school administration spring openly and visibly from a desire to retain the exclusive enjoyment and control of the rates, with all the inequalities and unjust advantages derived from inexhaustible public resources without personal self-denial, as against schools supported by self-denial for conscience' sake.

35. Because they avow their hope that the board school system will be universal, to the displacement and extinction of the voluntary system.

36. Because this would make the State the educator of the people; the disastrous effects of which are already seen in France and in the United States.

37. Because State education is the worst form of education, fatal to the independence of national conscience, energy, and character.

38. Because this would complete what the Act of 1870 began, namely: (1) a breach in the tradition of Christian England; (2) a transfer of parental rights and responsibilities to the State in all its political fluctuations; (3) a new departure in national life and national character deliberately not Christian.

39. Because the attempt to carry out such a system of education in Catholic Ireland, Presbyterian Scotland, and Christian England, would rekindle the most perilous religious conflicts, and would certainly end in failure.

40. Because the whole power of Government since the sixteenth century has always been defeated in its conflicts with the religious denominations of the three kingdoms.

41. Because there is wanted a higher, larger, and equal law, giving place and liberty of action to both the voluntary and board school systems, will reconcile their variances, and peacefully mature and complete a national system of education worthy of the name.

42. Because the three Secretaries of the Committee of Privy Council—Lord Lingen, down to 1869; Sir Francis Sandford, down to 1884; Mr. Patrick Cumin, now secretary—all alike recommend a larger administration, combining the two systems and placing all elementary schools upon the rates.

43. Because the Report of the Royal Commission of 1861 recommended that all elementary schools should share in the county rates.

44. Because the County Government Act contemplates the transfer of education, both as to finances and as to administration, to the County Councils.

45. Because local administration is surest, and develops local responsibility and energy, which are suspended and destroyed by centralization.

46. Because a large decentralization of the functions of the Education Department is certain, inevitable, and most expedient.

47. Because what touches so closely the conscience and homes of the people ought to be within their knowledge and reach.

48. Because the education of children is a local duty, and confers a local benefit. It ought, therefore, to be cared for, and in part paid for by each locality.

49. Because the supreme control will always rest in the centre, the Education Department; by visitation, inspection, and quasi-legislation, by codes and minutes; securing thereby unity and just administration in localities.

50. Because the County Government Act and the tide of modern legislation has made this decentralization and localization inevitable. It will be carried out "with us, or without us, or against us." The last is swift ruin; the second, slow defeat and extinction; the first will enable us to meet openly and fairly both the counties and the Parliament, so as to ensure our participation in the equal and universal aid given to elementary schools from both local and Imperial resources.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

King Humbert said yesterday that it was his belief that for this year peace is assured. M. Tisza also said the same thing, adding that there is now no State in Europe which absolutely desires war. On this subject M. Tisza is an authority. All last year his Hungarians were the only people in Europe who desired war absolutely or relatively. That they have now submitted to the German strait-waistcoat is good news. But the keeper of the peace of Europe is neither at Rome, nor Vienna, nor Berlin. He resides at Gatschina, and his determination is unshaken that there must be no war.

Milan Obrenovitch ought to be sent packing this week. His speech to the representatives from the Skuptschina who waited upon him to suggest certain changes in his proposed Constitution, was quite barbaric in its vehemence and insolence:—

> Unless the Constitution be passed as it stands, I shall dissolve the Skuptschina and rule as I please. I shall then have neither the new Constitution nor the old, for I shall remain master. You will have just what Cabinet suits me, and I shall be my own Prime Minister.

Sic volo sic jubeo. The Committee of the Skuptschina is reported to have been cowed, and the Constitution is to be accepted. If so, it is not worth the paper on which it is written. A King who can thus ram a Constitution down the throats of his people can dispense with it when he pleases. The only way out is for Servia to dispense with him.

If it were really the case, as the Unionists say, that the law is the same in England as in Ireland, the sentence passed on Mr. Finucane yesterday would be "a caution" indeed to all those who attend public meetings. Mr. Finucane was not charged with having said or done anything wrong himself, but only with having been present at a meeting at which some one else said something objectionable. Such is the "crime" which Mr. Finucane is to expiate by four months' imprisonment. Here are the magistrate's words in passing sentence:—

> Mr. Finucane was present at this meeting in May. He heard it stated that the man Quilty was only fit to be treated as a leper, and that he was to be left actually to die of starvation. Yet he never opened his mouth to condemn such language. The magistrates had no option but to find him guilty.

Very well, then. Let us wait and see if the Warden of Merton is punished for contempt of court, whether Sir James Hannen will "have no option but to find guilty" all the other persons who heard the contempt, and "never opened their mouths to condemn such language."

Dr. Parker, who is one of the most theatrical of our preachers, has been outdoing all his brethren in the emphatic eulogium which he has pronounced upon the stage. When a leading Nonconformist preacher declares that the most distinguished London manager and actor "deserves the heartiest support of all Christian workers," and that a more godlike man than another actor it would be difficult to find, the veteran playgoer can hardly resist a smile. There is much of the ardour of the neophyte about Dr. Parker's enthusiasm for the stage. It is the swing of the pendulum to the opposite extreme. Prynne's Histriomastix marks one extreme, Dr. Parker's eulogy the other. What Cardinal Manning, the Bishop of London, the Rev. Price Hughes, and General Booth would say of Dr. Parker's outburst may be imagined. But it would be more to the point to hear the comments of Mr. John Hollingshead, Mr. Clement Scott, and the managers of the Avenue and the Gaiety, concerning the ethical standard of the modern stage.

The New Year opens with brighter prospects all round than any of its predecessors for more than a decade, and in agricultural circles hope is steadily rising. One indication is seen in the reports of shorthorn sales for 1888. Last year there were 1,594 animals sold by public auction, realizing £44,013, or an average of £27 15*s.* 8*d.*; whereas in 1887 there were 1,480 sold, realizing £37,966, or an average of £25 13*s.* This advance of £2 2*s.* 8*d.* means a great deal. Much of this advance is due to the South American demand, for with the practical closing of the United States to our breeders the Argentine Republic has entered the field, and both as regards numbers and prices has proved most opportune. The highest prices realised in 1888 was by Lord Feversham's herd, at the sale of which last September one animal sold for a thousand guineas, and the average of forty-two animals was £88 4*s.* 6*d.*

"The past year," writes an Oxford correspondent, "has happily been less fatal here than several of its immediate predecessors. It is nearly a year now since that unorthodox but trenchant politico-economist, Professor Bonamy Price, was taken from us, and with the exception of Mr. Rigaud, a Fellow of Magdalen, no other resident 'don' has died in 1888. For Sir Henry Maine and Sir Francis Doyle, though both closely connected with Oxford, of which they were ex-professors, had left us before they died; as had Dean Burgon, once so well known here; while Matthew Arnold was not more a loss to Oxford than to any other part of the English-speaking world. Perhaps one of the saddest deaths was that of Hector Maclean, President of the O.U.B.C., more sad because it was so sudden and because it ought to have been so easily preventable. The death, too, of 'Charlie' Symonds—known and admired by generations of Oxford men—left a gap; but, on the whole, the list is a light one—lighter than can reasonably be expected, considering the number of venerable men whom we have always with us."

Cardinal Manning's fifty Reasons why the Denominational schools have a right to support from the public rates will be found in another column. They will provoke keen controversy, and to that end are they published. Considerations of space have compelled us somewhat to curtail one or two of the Reasons, but as they stand they present the case for the Denominational school in its most effective form. We wish that his Eminence had made it quite clear that he would give the County Councils control of the Denominational schools which he insists they ought to subsidize; but that, of course, is a *sine quâ non*, and it may fairly be implied from his remarks about the attitude of the National Society.

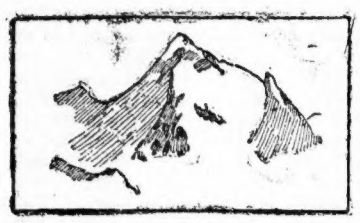
We print elsewhere a communication from the editor of the *Tablet*, together with an interview with a friend of Mr. Gladstone, which leaves the question as to what the G.O.M. meant by suggesting International Arbitration about the position of the Pope more in the dark than ever. The meaning of Mr. Gladstone's letter to the Marquis de Riso, which seems to have been quite recent, taken in connection with the statement as to Mr. Gladstone's anxiety to bring about a *modus vivendi* between Pope and King in Italy, seems plain enough. Possibly the distinguished statesman has hardly appreciated the extent to which the relations between the Pope and the Italian kingdom have altered for the worse since he last had the question before him.

We have frequently received letters from all points of the political compass accusing us of holding every idea against which we spend our life in protesting, and complaints that we deify Mr. Gladstone alternate with almost monotonous regularity with complaints that we are perpetually abusing him. A Mr. "Edward Windsor," who dates from "Rye Villa, Twickenham," however, contrives to outdo most of his class by informing us that the proper sub-title for the *Pall Mall Gazette* is "The Organ of the Jesuit Society," inasmuch as "any child could see through the transparent piece of artful Jesuitry" which we published in commenting on Mr. Gladstone's alleged letter. We are now, therefore, not even disguised Papists. It is great news to us; but we fear we should stand a very bad chance of being accepted at the Vatican, or even at the Cardinal's palace in the Vauxhall-bridge-road as a Catholic organ.

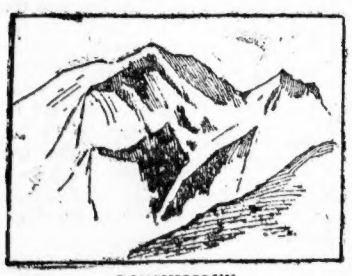
"Tricoche et Cacolet," that carnival of ingeniously extravagant situation and whimsically witty dialogue, is performed with excellent spirit by M. Mayer's indefatigable company at the Royalty. MM. Schey and Didier are astonishing in their endless disguises—the house roars at M. Schey as "Seer Richard Burlington, banquier Anglais"—Mdlle. Charlotte Raynard is charming as Mdme. Van der Pouf, Mdlle. Jane May gives the benefit of her vivacious style to the small part of Fanny Bombance, and M. Dalbert makes a portly but by no means a heavy Duc Emile. The episode of the *café chantant* might with advantage be curtailed. Now that MM. Meilhac and Halévy are both safely in the Academy, they might surely (like Tricoche and Cacolet) reunite their forces, and try to "recapture the first fine careless rapture" of their humour.

The renowned "Muskelmann" of Dresden ought to have a place in Mr. Oscar Wilde's next excursus upon artist's models. A few years ago a well-known painter persuaded this remarkable man, on account of the magnificently muscular build of his body, to forsake his own trade—that of a locksmith—and take up the profession of "model." His fame has become so great that he is even called into Italy, Belgium, France, and Spain to sit to painters and sculptors. In order to preserve for future artists an exact duplicate of his extraordinarily Michel Angelesque figure while he is in the fulness of his powers, the director of the Royal Saxon Porzellanfabrik at Meissen lately invited him to that place, in order that a cast from life might be taken of the upper part of his body. The muscular development of the Dresden Muskelmann is so complete and detailed that even the least and slightest cord of every muscle stands forth prominently, and "his whole body looks," as one critic says, "as if it were woven together, or plaited like basket work." His muscles have such a hardness that they feel to the touch as if they were carved in wood. The director of the Meissen factory paid him a fee of 300 marks for the casting of his "torso."

Club) ascended Adai Choch. In the following year Mr. Clinton Dent and Mr. Donkin ascended Gestola, and in 1887 Mr. Douglas Freshfield accomplished the ascent of Tetmold, each of these last-named peaks being about 16,000 feet in height. This year a great clearance has been made among the peaks which remained unclimbed. Koshtan-Tan (17,096 feet), the second measured peak of the range has been twice ascended—first by Mr. A. F. Mummery, and again, by another route, by Mr. J. G. Cockin, Mr. H. W. Holder, and Mr. Hermann Woolley. The two last-named also climbed a peak about 15,500 ft. in height, situated midway between Gestola and Djanga, which has been named the Saddle Peak, and Mr. Cockin and Mr. Holder climbed another peak of about the same height, lying to the N.E. of the Zanner Pass, called Salananchera-

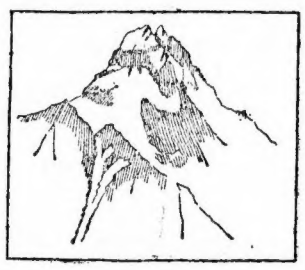


TETMOLD.



DONGUSSORUN.

The lowest of these peaks, it will be noticed, is about the same height as Mont Blanc. It is certain also that Mr. Donkin and Mr. Fox succeeded in ascending Dongussorun (about 16,000 ft.) very shortly after they arrived in the Caucasus. But Mr. Cockin's record does not stop with the ascents of his which we have mentioned. After his companions had left for England he remained behind with his guides Ulrich Almer and Christian Roth, to try further ascents. He succeeded in ascending Shkara (about 17,000 ft. in height) by the northern arete. This was found to be very sharp and steep in parts, and the number of steps which had to be cut in the ice entailed much labour on the guides. Very shortly after this success Mr. Cockin made the first ascent of Djanga, or rather of that peak of Djanga which is nearest to Shkara. The height of Djanga has not yet been measured, but Mr. Cockin describes it as being well below Shkara. Mr. Cockin's crowning effort was the successful ascent of the north peak of Usch-ba alone with Ulrich Almer (Roth being temporarily crippled with rheumatism). All travellers who have seen Usch-ba speak of it as the most marvellous peak they have ever seen. Nothing in the range of the Alps can compare with the Matterhorn, but all who have seen both the Matterhorn and Usch-ba agree that the Matterhorn is surpassed in grandeur by its double-crested rival of the Caucasus. Usch-ba means "rain peak"—well named, for, like the Matterhorn, it is a gatherer of clouds. Of it Mr. Grove says: "If the mountain which rises over Zermatt were greater and steeper; if close to its eastern face rose another peak altogether resembling it; if the two were united by a vast curtain of precipitous rocks ending some distance below the summits; then would the likeness of Usch-ba be presented to the eyes of travellers in Switzerland, and the overtopped Cervin be considered only as second to the mightier mountain." Whether Mr. Cockin ascended the higher of the twin peaks or not, must remain for the present unknown. Neither peak has been accurately measured, and the southern peak was covered with cloud during the whole time that Mr. Cockin was on the top of its northern brother. Mr. Donkin and Mr. Fox had previously made attempts on both peaks of Usch-ba, but their attempts had in each case to be abandoned on account of the dangerous state of the snow at the time and the badness of the weather. Mr. Cockin, too, had made two unsuccessful attempts before he finally succeeded. His ascent was made by a great couloir which runs down from the neck joining the two peaks. Fortunately the snow was found to be sufficiently soft to allow steps to be kicked in it, while it was not soft enough to be a source of danger to the party. If this had not been so, the ascent would have been impossible. From their last bivouac, just above the trees on the southern side of the peak, ten hours were spent in reaching the neck between the two peaks referred to above. Thence to the top occupied two and a half hours more. The ascent alone therefore took twelve and a half hours, and it is obvious that there was no superfluous time to be spent in cutting steps in the couloir. In estimating Mr. Cockin's achievements at their proper value we must remember that former travellers in the Caucasus have considered themselves fortunate if they succeeded in ascending one hitherto unascended peak during a season's travel. Mountaineering in the Caucasus and mountaineering in the Alps are very different things. In Switzerland the traveller is made comfortable in an hotel close under the peak he may wish to climb. There he can obtain any supplies he may need, and porters to carry them. In the Caucasus he is obliged to carry with him all the provisions he may require, and move his camp gradually higher and higher, until he is within striking distance of the object of his journey. The ascent of one of the higher Caucasian peaks has always been estimated as entailing at least a week's continuous labour, and the carrying of provisions for that period. For this reason in the Caucasus bad weather is even a more serious impediment to mountaineering than in the Alps.



USCH-BA.

BISMARCK NO. 2.

The Berlin *Das Echo*, in an article upon Count Herbert Bismarck as a parliamentary orator, says that he is the exact double of what Prince Bismarck was forty years ago—that is to say, in the year of Revolutions. "He stands like his father; he has the same movements of the head and the hands, the same tugging up of his coat collar, the same physiognomical play of features, the same nervousness, the same wearisomely dragged voice, while every sentence sounds like the gurgling of water in a pump that does not work well." The older statesmen, who recollect the Bismarck senior of forty years ago, call him "Bismarck No. 2." His maiden speech, which was delivered at the great colonial debate, was expected with as much excitement and interest as the appearance of a new tenor. The house was crowded, and all Berlin was eager to read what "the representative of Bismarck" had said among his parliamentary colleagues. "Not the least excitement," says our contemporary, "was there evident in the eighty journalists sitting with opened note-books and sharpened pencils, as if impatient for the first syllable which was about to issue from Bismarck the Second's lips." The old Field-marshal Moltke sat earnestly watching the young orator, thoughtfully rubbing his nose with a paper-knife.

THE FOGS AND THE FLOWERS.

AN INTERVIEW AT COVENT GARDEN FLOWER MARKET.

IT was on New Year's Day that I made my way early in the morning through the thick darkness to the Covent Garden flower market, here, among big bunches of lilies of the valley, of roses and mignonette and violets, and all the rest of the delicate and beautiful "goods," to chat with some of the large market gardeners on the effect which this gruesome atmosphere had on their frail market ware. With me was a sturdy Scotchman, whom every salesman in the Market seemed to know, and at whose introduction all tongues were loosened, and every salesman unbosomed himself concerning the foe of the flowers, the London fog.

"Some nine or ten years ago," said my cheery companion, by way of opening the debate, "when the fog was so dense that the poor brutes at the Cattle Show died of the effect of it, the flowers suffered more than they have ever been known to do by the thick fog. Is it not so?" (addressing the reticent salesman, who, like all gardeners are, was at first rather sparing with his speech). "Quite so, sir," he said, warming to his subject: "the flowers died by the thousands and tens of thousands, and at Christmas it was almost impossible to get certain flowers for love or money."

"Is it the white flowers which suffer most?" I asked, sitting on the edge of an empty flower-box, and casting admiring glances at some big bundles of scarlet geraniums, which every now and then a customer took questioningly up, to receive the monotonous reply, "Shilling the bunch."

"No, not to any special degree. Single geraniums, such as you see here, are soonest and most affected. Fogs are simply murderous to them, and no sooner has one of the black days been on us than they drop their petals one by one. It is the same with the pelargoniums, and I have, this very day, one of my men going through the houses collecting all the showers of petals that have dropped off on these foggy days. Double geraniums suffer in a different way; their bright scarlet leaves lose their colour, and turn slowly to a muddy purple; single primulas, and, in fact, single flowers generally, share the same fate. They can't stand the fog at all, a fact which it is not difficult for any one having a knowledge of vegetable physiology to understand. Plants and flowers breathe through their leaves and petals, and as soon as the fiend the fog falls upon them they inhale sulphur and smoke instead of air: their circulation is stopped, they begin to droop, and unless the atmosphere is speedily cleared they die altogether.

"Roses, too, are much injured, as you can see for yourself," producing a bunch of what ought to have been exquisite crimson roses, but what in reality was but a cluster of little discoloured and damp-looking flower corpses. "The bud develops to a certain degree, and then, instead of blossoming out, the edges of the petals begin to sicken and the flower fades and melts without any help. Again, there is the Poinsettia pulcherrima; the scarlet petals of the blossom itself are not so much affected as the leaves, which drop one by one till the large disc of the flower which crowns the plant is only left on the bare straight stem. The coral tinted tiny buds of the Bouvardia fall an easy prey to the destroyer. The lily of the valley, which turns yellow and dies: the camellia sheds its buds and flowers; and some ferns, especially the maidenhair and the Pteris tremula, shrivel up. On the average it is the flowers of the brightest colours and all soft-wooded plants which are soonest affected by the fog, and some orchids cannot stand it at all." Thus, bulbous plants—that is to say, plants of which the bud is formed in the bulb—do not suffer much, and many of these are white. We find it quite easy to force tulips, narcissi, hyacinths, &c., in or near London, but of course their buds are protected by the leaves till they are almost full grown."

"And is there no remedy against the destroyer?"

"Yes, there is one, but that one it is not in everybody's means to procure. It is simply this—to remove the flowers out of the sway of the London fog far enough into the country where fogs are not. Before the disastrous fogs when the poor brutes died at the Cattle Show London was full of glass, but since then most large growers have moved away from town. This is, of course, in many ways inconvenient, but we were forced to do it if we wanted to save our flowers."

"Have all the fogs the same deadly effect on flowers?"

"No, the white fog does comparatively little harm, but the black, dense fog does the mischief; against that they cannot struggle, and it is that which drives up the prices of flowers as much as anything." Other gardeners, from various parts of London, endorsed the statements later on, and, as I vanished into the black darkness of New Year's Day the trailing garments of the fog seemed to cling with their destructive grip more firmly to these lower regions.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR EYES?

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. R. BRUDENELL CARTER, F.R.C.S.

THE great interest which has recently been aroused anent the eyesight of our school children induced one of our representatives to seek the above eminent authority, in order to present his opinion to our readers. Mr. Carter met our reporter most kindly, and willingly placed himself and his views at the service of the readers of the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

"We have not all the data that would be required for a complete knowledge of the subject of the causes of the deterioration of the eyesight," said Mr. Brudenell Carter; "still, we have enough to point to the necessity of attending to it. It is now some four years since I endeavoured to draw the attention of the public to the effect of civilization on the eyesight, yet there is not much that is new to say. The explanation, I think, is twofold. In the first place, the constant use of the eyes on near objects is injurious to them; in the second, the deterioration is largely due to popular ignorance on the subject of what the eyes ought to be able to accomplish. There is a national neglect of the culture of the eyes, chiefly due to the prevailing absence of knowledge concerning the proper range and scope of the visual function. Few things are more remarkable than this common want of information. Parents as a rule have a very fair notion of what ought to be the average powers and capabilities of their children: they know how fast they should be expected to walk, how high they should be able to jump, what weight they should carry, what force they should be able to exert; but hardly one parent in five hundred has the smallest notion how large or how small an object his son ought to be able to see clearly at 100 feet distance. Moreover, there is not one parent in five hundred who could say off-hand whether his child possesses natural acuteness of vision, for he would not understand the phrase, nor could say whether his child possessed natural colour vision, or would know how to test him."

"Would it be possible, Mr. Carter, to develop good eyesight in a short-sighted child?"

"No. But whereas the visual power of individuals may not be altered that of races can. There is no doubt that the organ, as man possesses it, is inferior to that possessed by animals, which we have far outstripped in other particulars, and moreover it has among ourselves fallen decidedly below the standard of excellence which it has attained in some of the families of the human race. There is a well known incident related by Humboldt. He was travelling in South America under conditions which rendered it necessary for the party to divide and reach their destination by different routes. As his section approached the meeting-place he said to his Indian guide that he wondered where the other party were. The Indian looked at him in some surprise, and pointing across the valley some miles away, said, 'Why, there they are!' This Humboldt shortly found to be true, but only by the use of a powerful telescope. Again, the astronomer Arago met a Tartar in Central Asia who described to him an eclipse of Jupiter's third satellite which he had seen with the naked eye. I may also instance the case of the Highland forester who can see deer at a distance whence they are invisible to the ordinary townsman."

"Now, as to the causes of this deterioration?"

"The circumstances of civilization are exceedingly unfavourable. We do not depend upon the possession of very acute eyesight for safety from our enemies, or for our next meal: therefore the stimulus to the improvement of the vision which is afforded by direct and immediate usefulness is absent. Many dwellers in towns never, or scarcely ever, see a distant object; and much of their work is done upon objects quite close to them, from which they obtain large retinal images, and hence become comparatively insensible to small ones. They often work by defective light, and are thus driven to resort to still closer approximation of the object, and it is by such approximation that the malformation which produces short sight is mainly brought about. The increase of this malformation is provided for by itself; structurally it is handed down to posterity, and mechanically it is increased by the practice which it compels, that of turning the eyes inwards to combine upon a very near point."

"Then you are quite of the opinion that national steps should be taken in order to change this condition of affairs?"

"No one who is engaged as I am can doubt the reality of the evil. I am frequently amazed at the ignorance of parents with regard to the very existence of visual defects in their children, and still more frequently at the tranquillity with which they will tell me that a child is shortsighted. You must remember that a shortsighted child is one whose accurate vision is confined within a circle of a foot or a yard, or it may be of a few inches of his eyes. Enclosed by this limited physical horizon, he often fails to develop the power of observation: he is blind to the expression of the human face, and his mind, even when intelligent and acute, is apt to display an acuteness which expends itself upon details, and exhibits but a restricted power of grasping principles. Moreover, the popular notions that shortsighted eyes are strong eyes, and that they improve with age, are entirely erroneous. They can frequently see smaller objects than others, but this is because, having to bring them very near, the visual angle is larger. They have no useful vision at a distance—that is, beyond a certain limit. On the other hand, the flat eye is the opposite defect to short sight, and the possession of such eyes is a most serious impediment to success in any sedentary occupation. Until Donders, about 1859, discovered the nature of this affection, and the extent to which it might be relieved by spectacles, those suffering from it were regarded as incurable, and were often advised to try sheep-farming in Australia or any of the colonies."

"Now, will you suggest some means to remedy this condition of affairs, please?"

"Well, first of all there must be a general recognition of the fact that good sight is an important point of physical excellence, which, like any other such point, should be assiduously cultivated. I would urge upon all parents the necessity of testing the eyesight of their children, and of ascertaining the cause and nature of the defect, if there is any, and to regulate, not only their studies, but as far as possible their future careers, in accordance with it. Also all who have control of schools ought to test the vision of each new pupil on admission, and the tasks should be controlled according to capabilities. Lesson books for very young children should be printed in large type, and children should be compelled to keep such books at a distance. The type in which we often see texts of Scripture hung up in railway waiting rooms would be a good size for the purpose. And here is a hint to typefounders. Great care should be taken that the *upper* half of all type should be cut very clearly indeed, as much depends on the upper portions of printed letters in reading. And finally, I would urge upon all who are concerned in organizing athletic sports and contests that excellence of vision should be highly esteemed, and that prizes should be awarded for it."

"Then you think if these suggestions were carried into practice there would be no fear of our becoming a purblind nation?"

"I am sure of it. If public opinion were once fairly directed to the question, if the eyes received as much attention as the muscles, and if an intelligent knowledge of what they ought to accomplish were diffused abroad, in the course of two or three generations our people might engage without disgrace, if not without fear, in a 'seeing contest' with the people of any other family of the human race."

ART NOTES.

The Grosvenor Gallery Winter Exhibition of Old Masters of the British School and of the early pastellists will open on the 19th of this month.

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Mr. Hamo Thornycroft's statue of General Gordon has been made "a public monument under the Act"—that is to say, has been made over to the care of her Majesty's Board of Works.

* * * * *

A remarkably fine "Portrait of a Man," by Nicolas Maes, dated 1666, has been placed on a screen in Room X., in the National Gallery. Notwithstanding the fact that Rembrandt's pupil was essentially a portrait painter, he has hitherto not been so represented in Trafalgar-square, although admirable specimens of his inimitable cabinet pictures of Dutch life have been hung there for half a century or thereabouts. To Sir Theodore Martin the nation is indebted for this most welcome gift.

* * * * *

A little flutter of excitement will surely occur among "Outsiders of the First Rank" when it becomes known that the election of an Associate of the Royal Academy to fill the place of Mr. Burgess, R.A., will take place on January 23 next. As I mentioned some time ago the American colony is using its utmost endeavours to secure the return of one or other of the admirable American artists practising in England, such as Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Millet, and Mr. E. A. Abbey. Without doubt the Academy will be the stronger for the election of any one of these clever painters, but as good Englishmen are also "waiting" the result of the election becomes the harder to prophecy, and for those whose love for art in England leads them to regard these things with close attention and concern the interest in the race becomes the keener.

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Hardly had poor Frank Holl been laid to earth in the picturesque cemetery at Hampstead than a number of his personal friends and public admirers decided that some definite memorial should be raised to him. The proposal was eagerly seized upon, and an influential provisional committee was formed, with Mr. William Agnew, one of Holl's greatest (and most substantially appreciative) friends, as secretary. A meeting of this provisional committee has been called for Friday next, at Messrs. Agnew's Gallery, at 39, Old Bond-street, when Earl Spencer will take the chair. I hear that there will be several counter-proposals as to the form the memorial should take. Whatever it may be, it is to be hoped that it will consist of something of a less private nature than the slabs and rarely-seen monuments to Holl's brother Academicians in the crypt of St. Paul's—those which mark the resting-places of Reynolds, West, Barry, Cockerell, Fuseli, Lawrence, Opie, Dance, and Turner.

* * * * *

Mr. Alma-Tadema's new picture, till recently called "The Hairdresser's Shop," which I fully described in this column a few weeks ago, has received some alteration of detail and colour, and has been christened by the far more romantic title of "The Shrine of Venus." I do not hesitate to say that this entirely admirable picture will be found among the best—if not the very best—of Mr. Tadema's works, for the figures are more lifelike than ever, the general harmony more subtle, the light and shade as good as he has ever produced, while the colour is emphatically more luminous and transparent than he has yet achieved. His "Venus and Mars," exhibited in the summer exhibition of the New Gallery, has been in part re-painted, to the great advantage of the composition and the scheme of colour. Could it be this fact that started the absurd canard about Mr. Tadema repainting the "Heliogabalus"?

* * * * *

A few weeks ago I referred to a guarded denial by Sir Frederick Leighton of the fact which I, in common with numerous art-chroniclers in England and on the Continent, had recorded, to the effect that he had been elected an honorary member of the Royal and Imperial Academy of Arts in Vienna. The official act has been established by inquiries made at headquarters by certain interested persons in Vienna: so that one is led to believe that the diploma must have been lost in transit. The position must be an equally awkward one for both Sir Frederick (who has presumably received no official intimation) and the Vienna Academy (which has received no acknowledgment or letter of thanks). It surely behoves the Vienna authorities to take the first step to ascertain who is the temporary possessor of their diploma: our P.R.A. cannot surely be expected to move first in so delicate a matter.

M. H. S.

THREE NEW NOVELS.*

"A WITCH OF THE HILLS."

WE do not remember a case in which a man has assumed a feminine pseudonym. But so essentially masculine in tone is this book, one might think that it had been done in the case of "Florence Warden." It may be argued, it is true, that Henry Maude is made to commit to the pages of his diary thoughts and feelings which a woman would be more likely to write down than a man. But it may be answered that this is due to the autobiographical form of the book. The alternatives are, on the one side, making a man tell about himself what presumably he would not reveal, and, on the other, telling about him what could not possibly be known. The fact is, that the vigorous treatment which Miss Warden gives to both her male and female characters constitutes a powerful claim to high rank in her profession. Sometimes she wants delicacy of touch, but the pen which could draw such figures as Henry Maude and Fabian on the one hand, and Babiole, the "Witch," and her mother on the other, is of no common order. It is a note of genius to be so double-natured. On the whole we think the two types of women, the narrower in the mother, the wider in the daughter, are the better work. Altogether "A Witch of the Hills" is a striking novel.

"CAROLINE."

"Caroline" is a simple love story, told with simplicity and good taste. Lady Lindsay, whose name is new, we think, in the world of letters, evidently thinks that in love, as in other things, the battle is not always to the strong. Lord Altamont and Dick Cabam are friends, and they both love the same girl, though the chivalry of Lord Altamont will not allow him to become a rival. Which is the stronger man of the two there can be no doubt, though Lord Altamont takes pains to conceal under a languid and indifferent exterior his real force of mind and character. Of his friend, beyond that he is impulsive and honest, with a face that reveals with peculiar clearness each passing emotion, we can form no particular conception. Such as he is, he wins the heart of Caroline Munro, jealously guarded as it is by a dragon, in the shape of Miss Ffoulkes, who is ever on the watch to defend the golden apples of the heiress's fortune. Of course there is a misunderstanding, and equally, of course, the lover behaves in the foolish way which, in fiction at least, is prescribed for the lover race. We cannot say that the suspense of the situation when Dick flies from what he thinks a faithless love seriously disturbs us—the course of events is marked out too seriously for that. But "Caroline" is a readable story.

"AGATHA PAGE."

One learns from Mr. Henderson's novel that, if one is half Italian, it is well that the other half should come from America. Such is the parentage of Agatha Page. Her father was an American diplomatist, her mother the sister of Count Ricci, and she has a cousin in Mercede, the Count's daughter. The Count loves them both, but Agatha interests him less than Mercede. "She is not," he continues, "so Italian." The motive of the story seems to be to show that it was very well that this was so. Agatha, after a courtship which is very pleasingly described, marries the Marquis Filippo Loreno, whose heart, somewhat of a wanderer in nature, her beauty of person and character captivates almost without a struggle. Some years of married happiness follow. The Marquis busies himself in politics and social questions; Agatha is a perfect wife and mother. But then the mischievous presence of Mercede appears on the scene. She has married, against her father's wish, an Italian officer; has left her husband, after grievous ill-treatment, and, refusing to return to her father's house, found livelihood and ultimately fame in the profession of sculpture. But work and fame do not satisfy her. She must have something to satisfy her heart, and she thinks that she has found in the friendship, soon, as may be supposed, becoming more than friendship, of her cousin's husband. The story of the growth of her passion seems natural enough; we do not find exactly the same probability in what we are told of the Marquis Loreno. His solid character, his strong love for his wife, a love which is described as strengthened by years of union and by community of tastes, finally his occupation with the graver interests of life, ought to have made him proof against even such a siren as Mercede. It is a distinct shock to the mind to find that he fails in the trial. The development of the story is indeed skilfully managed. The wife retains, amid adverse appearances, her faith in her husband, and that faith is justified, for his better nature is awakened, and he returns to the affection which had always been the better part of his soul. The subsidiary characters are well drawn.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

(Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.)

YEAR BOOKS.

"SELL'S DICTIONARY of the World's Press and Advertiser's Reference Book 1889." (Henry Sell: 167 and 168, Fleet-street.)
[The most striking features of this press guide are the articles on journalistic matter and the numerous portraits which, in addition to a very complete list of English and foreign newspapers, it contains. Dr. Blake-Odgers writes on the Law of Libel Amendment Bill, and Mr. Robertson-Scott on "The New Journalism"; besides which there is a great variety of matter interesting as well to the public as to pressmen. Pp. 1,450, yellow cloth. Price 2s.]

"THE EDUCATIONAL ANNUAL, 1889." (Philip and Son.)
[This annual will doubtless prove useful to teachers. In addition to much statistical information, there is a summary of the Royal Commission Report, a reprint of the Education Code, the regulations of the Science and Art Department, &c., &c. Pp. 294, cloth. Price 1s. 6d.]

"THE INSURANCE YEAR BOOK, 1889." (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.)
[Information respecting all the best known Insurance Companies—Fire, Life, Marine, and Miscellaneous. Pp. 132, paper covers.]

"THE POLITICAL WORLD YEAR-BOOK." (Talbot Brothers.)

"THE STOCK EXCHANGE YEAR-BOOK FOR 1889." (Cassell and Co.)
[An indispensable handbook. Compiled as usual by Mr. Thomas Skinner. Pp. 736, cloth. Price 12s. 6d.]

"THE YEAR'S ART. 1889." (J. S. Virtue and Co.)
[This is the tenth appearance of Mr. Huish's useful publication, the price of which has now been raised to 3s. 6d. Portraits of the A.R.A.'s are given, as well as a summary of Russell and Abney's Report upon the Action of Light on Water Colours. There is also the usual Directory of Artists, and information on art matters generally. Pp. 365, cloth.]

VERSE.

BAYLDON, ARTHUR A. D. "The Sphinx, and other Poems." (Hull: J. R. Tutin.)

SCHWARTZ, J. M. W., LL.D. "A Sheaf of Sonnets." (Remington and Co.)

THAYER, WILLIAM ROSCOE. "Hesper: an American Drama." (Cambridge, U.S.A.: Lever.)
[Three volumes of minor verse.]

FICTION.

MORRISON, DAVID MCLAREN. "Brotherhood: a Study from Life." (Simpkin Marshall.)
[A story in one volume. Pp. 300, cloth.]

MURRAY, DAVID CHRISTIE and HENRY M. "A Dangerous Catspaw." (Longmans.)
[A novel in one volume. Pp. 304, cloth. Price 6s.]

KINGSLEY, CHARLES. "Alton Locke." (Macmillan.)
[The new volume of the new three-and-sixpenny edition.]

YONGE, CHARLOTTE M. "Pillars of the House. Vol. I. (Macmillan.)
[The new volume of the new three-and-sixpenny edition.]

We have also received the following books:—"The Virgin's Vengeance." By Ross Dering. (Oxford: Oliver); "London Government." By Henry Clarke. (Simpkin Marshall); "Shakspeare's Verse in 'Othello.'" By T. R. Price. (Trübner); "Glamour and Gramarye." By Druid Graye. (Johnstone and Co.); "Report of Met. Pub. Gardens Association;" "Highways and Hedges." (Griffith, Farran, and Co.); and "The Political World Year Book." (Talbot Brothers.)

* 1. "A Witch of the Hills." By Florence Warden. Two vols. (Richard Bentley and Son.)
2. "Agatha Page." By Isaac Henderson. Two vols. (Chatto and Windus.)
3. "Caroline." By Lady Lindsay. (Richard Bentley and Son.)

NOTICES.

Announcements of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, *and* DEATHS *are inserted for 5s. each. The* PALL MALL GAZETTE *is sent post free for any number of days to any address in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and all countries in the Postal Union, at the rate of ninepence per week, or 9s. 6d. per quarter. The* PALL MALL BUDGET, *also post free, costs for the United Kingdom 4s. 11d. per quarter; for all countries in the Postal Union 5s. 5d. per quarter; for India and China 6s. per quarter. Apply to the Manager,* PALL MALL GAZETTE, 2, NORTHUMBERLAND-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.
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HENGLER'S GRAND CIRCUS COMPANY.
TWICE DAILY, at 2 and 7.30.
Prices of Admission:—Gallery, 6*d.*; Amphitheatre, 1*s.*; Pit and Promenade, 2*s.*; Stage Stalls, 3*s.*; First Circle, 3*s.*; Grand Circle, 4*s.*; Stalls, 5*s.*; Boxes from 10*s. 6d.* to £3 3*s.* Early doors open at One o'clock and 6.30 (entrance, Hart-street) to Pit and Promenade, Amphitheatre and Gallery. 6*d.* Extra. Box-office open daily, from 10 till 5, under the direction of Mr. E. Hall. No charge for booking. Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. WALTER GOOCH. Musical Director, Mr. GEORGE CLEMMENTS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—CHILDREN HALF-PRICE to MORNING and EVENING PERFORMANCES to all parts of the House (except Gallery) on payment at the doors, or seats can be secured in advance at the Box-office and all Libraries.—HENGLER'S CIRCUS, THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Miss GRACE HAWTHORNE. Manager, Mr. W. W. KELLY.—ENORMOUS SUCCESS of HANDS ACROSS THE SEA (free list suspended). Messrs. Henry Neville, Robert Pateman, E. W. Garden, W. L. Abingdon, Julian Cross, A. Bucklaw, E. Gurney, Morell, Grace, Dalziell; Misses Webster, De Solla, Vizetelly, and Mary Rorke. A HAPPY PAIR, at 7.30. Seats at the Box-office (Mr. A. Frye), 10 till 5, and the Libraries.

MATINEES of "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA" EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Free list entirely suspended.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

COMEDY THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 9 o'clock, a New Farcical Comedy, in three acts, entitled UNCLES AND AUNTS, by W. LESTOCQ and WALTER EVERARD. Mr. W. S. Penley, and special cast. Preceded, at 8, by FENNEL, by J. K. JEROME.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

UNCLES AND AUNTS.—MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 3 o'clock. COMEDY THEATRE.

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.—CINDERELLA. Written by HORACE LENNARD, Produced under direction of OSCAR BARRETT. DAILY at 3, and THURSDAY, and SATURDAY EVENINGS at 7.30. Seats from 1*s.* to 5*s.*

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.—CINDERELLA, DAILY at 3.0, and THURSDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, at 7.30.—The powerful company includes—Messrs. Edward Righton, Clarence J. Hague, and John D'Auban; Mesdames Susie Vaughan, Emma D'Auban, Mary Righton, Kate Vito, Amy Liddon, and Edith Bruce. Seats from 1*s.*

NIAGARA IN LONDON. COLOSSAL PICTURE of the GREAT FALLS, original effects, by PHILIPPOTEAUX. Pleasant Lounge, Music, American Sweetmeat Store. Electric Light. Refreshments by Beguinot. Admission 1*s.* No fees. 10 to 10.—YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, St. James's Park Station.

ART GALLERY.
NEW GALLERY, Regent-street.—EXHIBITION of the ROYAL HOUSE of STUART.—NOW OPEN from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. Admission One Shilling. Season Tickets Five Shillings.

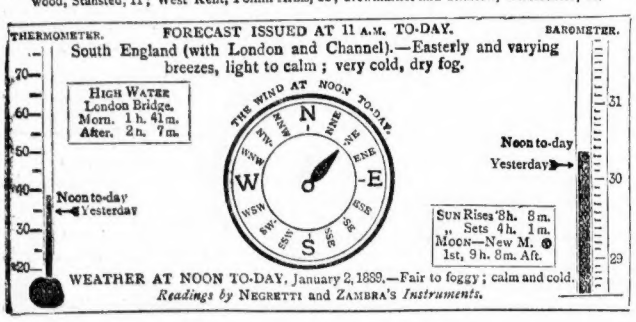
To-Day and To-Morrow.

TO-DAY.

Institute of Bankers, London Institution, 6.
Missionaries at Exeter Hall, 8.
Metropolitan Radical Federation, Hammersmith Club, 8.
Lambeth Ragged School Society, Newport-street, 6.
"The Errors of Vegetarianism," by Alice Vickery, Anderton's, Fleet-street, 8.
"Housing the Poor," by E. H. Pickersgill, Tent-street Mission Hall, Brady-street, 8.30.
Seamen's Hospital Society—Conversazione at Greenwich, 7.30.
Jews' Free School—Presentation of Testimonial to Mr. M. Angel, Head Master at the School, Bell-lane, Spitalfields, 5.
Marriage Portion Society—Election Meeting at 4, Great Prescot-street, 8.
Lantern Night, Photographic Club—Anderton's Hotel, 8.
Vere Foster's National Competition—Exhibition of Work, Memorial Hall, 10 to 6.
The "Merry Wives of Windsor"—Matinée at the Haymarket Theatre.
City of London Police Festival, Cannon-street Hotel, 8.
National Society of Provincial Musicians—Conference at Cambridge.
Football—Isleworth: Old Internationals v. Marlborough Nomads—Newton Heath: Casuals (London) v. Newton Heath—Richmond: East Sheen v. Haileybury Wanderers—Sheffield: Heart of Midlothian v. Sheffield Wednesday.
Racing—Manchester Meeting.
Hunting Appointments—East Kent, Sellindge Lees, 11; West Norfolk, Houghton Hall, 11.30.
County Council Meetings—Bermondsey—Messrs. Cooper and Thornton, Upper Grange-road School, room, 8; Holborn—T. W. Maule and J. B. Murrough, Store-street Hall, 8; Poplar—Messrs. Grosvenor and McDougall, Gladstone Hall, Mr. S. Buxton in the chair, 8; Battersea—J. Burns, Park Town Hall.
Scientific Meetings—Linden Institution, Finsbury-circus, 4.
Shorthand Society, 55, Chancery-lane, 8.
Lecture on "Architecture," St. James's Hall, 8.30.
Companies' Meetings—Almada and Tirito (in Liquidation). 47, Finsbury-circus, 2.30; London and Greenwich Railway, Winchester House, 1.
Exhibitions, &c., Open—Crystal Palace, from 10; Niagara in London, Westminster, from 10; Mdme. Tussaud's, Marylebone-road, from 9; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, from 9; Winter Exhibition, Olympia, 11; World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, from 10; Alexandra Palace, from 10; Lambeth Polytechnic Industrial Exhibition, Ferndale-road, Brixton; Exhibition of Royal House of Stuart, at the New Gallery, Regent-street, W.
Polytechnic Industrial Exhibition, Regent-street.

TO-MORROW.

"The Organization of an Army of War," by Major-General R. Harrison—Prince Consort's Library, Aldershot, 4.30.
Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers' Quarterly Court—Licensed Victuallers' Schools, 4.
Thames Yacht Club House Dinner, 7.
Old Framlinghamians' Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Margate College Old Boys' Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
Dr. Barnardo's Homes—Annual Supper to Waifs and Strays, Edinburgh Castle, Stepney, 6.
County Council Meeting at Walworth, in support of W. Saunders and G. Marsland, Baptist Chapel, East-street, 8; Whitechapel, in support of S. M. Samuel and Charles Tarling, Christ Church Schools, Brick-lane, 8; Dulwich Division, Lady Sandhurst and Dr. Gutteridge, Avondale Hall, Bellenden-road, 8.30.
Football—Reading: Kendrick v. Amersham Hall—Upper Tooting: Casual v. Incogniti—Worthing: Worthing v. Chichester.
Hunting Appointments—East Essex, Pattiswick Green, 11; Essex Union, Latchington, 11; Goodwood, Stansted, 11; West Kent, Polhill Arms, 11; Newmarket and Thurlow, Withersfield, 11.


THERMOMETER.
FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
South England (with London and Channel).—Easterly and varying breezes, light to calm; very cold, dry fog.
BAROMETER.
HIGH WATER London Bridge. Morn. 1 h. 41 m. After. 2 n. 7 m.
THE WIND AT NOON TO-DAY
Noon to-day
Yesterday
Noon to-day
Yesterday
SUN Rises 8h. 8 m. Sets 4h. 1 m.
MOON—New M. 1st, 9 h. 8 m. Aft.
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, January 2, 1889.—Fair to foggy; calm and cold.
Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S Instruments.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SEAS AND NEW GUINEA.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 22nd November says:—"The missionary schooner *John Williams* returned to Sydney on the 16th after her periodical visit to the islands of the South Seas and New Guinea. She reports that at Raiatea a French force of about forty soldiers had constructed a fort on shore, and a French war vessel was moored in position to shell the village. About 600 men of the population were on the hills defying the French authorities, their best friends advising them to quietly accept the inevitable—the annexation of the group by France. Bad news of a drought at New Guinea is brought by the *John Williams*. The country around Port Moresby is suffering severely from want of rain, the whole place having a burnt-up appearance. Scarcely a green spot could be seen for many miles, and no planting had been done by the natives, who may be expected ere long to be subjected to great privations in consequence.

THE DANGERS OF AERIAL NAVIGATION.

An American aeronaut named Bartholomew, who has been giving a series of exhibitions in the Australian colonies, met with a serious accident at Ballarat yesterday. He made a successful ascent in the presence of a large number of spectators, but in the descent his balloon became unmanageable, and struck the roof of a house. Bartholomew was thrown out, and sustained serious injuries. He is now in the hands of the surgeons, who think he will recover.

Mr. Bright continues to improve. He again slept well last night.

Sir William Jenner has had a quiet night and is much improved this morning.

From the Registrar-General's returns it appears that the annual death rate in London, which in the previous week was 22.0 per 1,000, declined last week to 20.

FOURTH EDITION.

WHAT DOES MR. GLADSTONE MEAN?

HIS OLD IDEA ABOUT THE POPE IN ROME.

THE REPLY OF THE EDITOR OF THE "TABLET."

Mr. Gladstone's telegram disclaiming the accuracy of the translation of his letter suggesting that the position of the Pope should be made the subject of an International Arbitration, was the subject of much eager discussion yesterday. A friend of Mr. Gladstone's, who called at our office, said:—

"I do not know what right Marquis de Riso had to publish letters which were admittedly private; neither can I imagine how Mr. Gladstone could suggest arbitration, except on the understanding that both the Pope and the Italian Government were anxious to submit their differences to the decision of a third party."

"But the Italian Government would never hear of such a proposal!"

"No, not now, I fear; but Mr. Gladstone has probably hardly realized how events have ripened since when he was in office the Roman question came before him. At that time the Italian Government would have been only too glad to have agreed to some such suggestion, but since then the situation has changed, and I fear arbitration is out of the question."

"Did Mr. Gladstone always feel strongly the importance of a *modus vivendi* between the Pope and Italy?"

"Always. He has never varied in his views on this question. He has thought it a grave national danger to Italy that the young kingdom should have a standing quarrel with the Church. He also thought that it would tend to broaden and liberalize the Church if the Vatican and the Quirinal were in good relations."

"What was Mr. Gladstone's solution in those days?"

"I believe that his idea was that the Italian Government would do well to recognize the absolute sovereignty of the Pope over the Leonine City, and at that time, if I remember aright, the Italian Government would have jumped at the idea of a settlement on those terms. But Pio Nono would not listen to any compromise that abated by a single rood his claims to the whole area of the States of the Church. Mr. Gladstone may think than an arbitrator might devise some such expedient, but I fear that even if the Pope were willing the Italian Government would not listen to any proposition which implied that the Roman question was open."

We sent down to the *Tablet* office, and received from the Mr. J. G. Cox, the editor, the following letter:—

I have just seen Mr. Gladstone's telegram in reply to your inquiries about his letter to the Marquis de Riso, published in the *Tablet*. Mr. Gladstone says:—"My letter is not new." It was in reply to a letter in which the writer says, "it is now eighteen years since the fatal breach of Porta Pia." The letter, therefore, which is "not new" cannot be more than four months old. Even supposing the Marquis de Riso wrote without reference to the exact month in which Rome was taken, Mr. Gladstone's letter must have been written, at any rate, within the last twelve months. "It is retranslated, and the version published is untrustworthy." Certainly the letter was rendered into English, as stated, from the Italian, of the *Osservatore Romano*. Whether the translation is "trustworthy" or not is a question which I will very willingly leave it to you, Sir, to decide. Here they are side by side:—

"Grandemente poi io m' interesso, su quanto mi scrivete nell' ultima vostra Lettera; e reputo l'argomento di essa cosi ponderoso ed importante da meritare di essere sottoposto ad un Arbitrato Internazionale. Io mi glorio di essere stato il promotore, quando ero primo Ministro, dell'Arbitrato Internazionale del Tribunale di Ginevra, per la vertenza dell'Alabama. Per la qual cosa qualunque proposta, che potrebbe avere per scopo ciò, per risolvere l'arduo problema da Voi trattato, avrà sempre le mie più vive, premurose e calde simpatie!"

"I was deeply interested with your last letter, and I consider the question of such importance as to merit the intervention of an International Arbitration. I boast that I was the promoter, when I was Premier, of the International Arbitration in connection with the Alabama Question. By such a method it would be possible to unlock the difficult question entered into by you, in which you would always have my full and warm sympathy."

"The statement is incorrect under the present circumstances." It is difficult to conjecture to what change in the circumstances of the Holy See Mr. Gladstone here refers. If the position of the Pope a few months ago was such as to call for an International Arbitration, it is hard to see why the same principle should not be applicable to-day.

IT WOULD MEAN THE POPE PROPPED UP BY FOREIGN BAYONETS.

The *Northern Whig* (Belfast), referring to Mr. Gladstone's telegram to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, says:—"An international commission of the Great Powers virtually to interfere in the domestic policies of Italy could only imply the maintenance of the Pope as a temporal Sovereign by foreign bayonets. The Italian Government and the people would never consent to such interference. It would mean the destruction of Italian independence, and how could Mr. Gladstone approve of such a reactionary enterprise?"

THE LATE LORD SACKVILLE'S WILL.

It seems probable Lord Sackville's will may be disputed. We have, however, excellent authority for stating that as regards Lady Derby the statement is inaccurate.

NO SKATING NEAR LONDON TO-DAY—PERHAPS TO-MORROW.

This morning a number of local skaters ventured upon the lakes and ponds at Bushey and Richmond Parks. The ice, however, was found to be too thin to be safe, and there were several immersions. Metropolitan skaters are advised that should the present severe weather continue for another twenty-four hours the ice at Penn ponds promises to be in splendid condition. The local watermen are making arrangements accordingly.

The frost in the Lincolnshire fens last night was very severe, and to-day there is plenty of sport for skaters. Cowbit Wash affords a magnificent area of ice to-day.

THE QUEEN ANNOYED.

I understand that the Queen was exceedingly angry at hearing that Prince Albert Victor had attended a ball during the first stage of the Court mourning for Prince Alexander of Hesse. Her Majesty's indignation was increased on learning that the Canford Manor party paid no attention to the edict, but all appeared in colours, Lady Wimborne setting her guests the example by wearing a dress of apricot brocade, with her famous rubies. It was a flagrant violation of etiquette for a Royal personage to be seen at a ball under such circumstances, and the blunder was aggravated by the almost universal wearing of colours.—*Truth.*

THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

ANOTHER RUMOURED CONTEMPT OF COURT.

The *Dublin Express* London correspondent to-day says:—Sir James Hannen returned to London yesterday from Eastbourne and had a long conference with the other Commissioners. It is understood that a third case of contempt of court has arisen, and is likely to be mentioned when the Commission meets on this day fortnight.

TWO YOUTHS HANGED AT MAIDSTONE.

Dobell and Gower, the Tunbridge Wells murderers, were executed at Maidstone gaol this morning. Berry arrived from Stafford last night, and was at once taken to the gaol, where he stayed, pressure having been brought to bear on him from the Home Office to prevent his appearing in public. Both culprits were remarkably self-possessed and walked firmly to the scaffold. Death is said to have been instantaneous, although the rope slightly swayed in Dobell's case after the drop.

THE QUEEN'S WINES AT TABLE.

The Queen never drinks more than two glasses of either champagne or claret, usually the former, and after dinner her Majesty frequently takes a small glass of Tokay—a wine of which Prince Albert was very fond, and he invariably drank a bumper of it at dessert. The Queen has an immense cellar of very fine wine. A great deal of the old vintage port and the Cabinet hocks, by the bye, will have to be drunk shortly or they will go off irretrievably.—*Truth.*

JEM SELBY'S STUD UNDER THE HAMMER.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE HORSES OF THE CELEBRATED WHIP

To-day the whole of the stud and property of the late James W. Selby, the celebrated driver of the Old Times coach, were sold at auction by Messrs. W. and S. Freeman, at Aldridge's, St. Martin's-lane. This renowned stud comprises the eight teams with which Selby performed the remarkable feat, on June 13 last, of driving to Brighton and back in the amazingly short time of seven hours and fifty minutes without once leaving his box. These horses are as follows: For the London stage—that is, from White Horse Cellars to Streatham—roan gelding Curate, and bay mare Kate—wheelers; brown gelding Baron and brown gelding Duke—leaders. On the day of that memorable spin these horses trotted the distance from London to Streatham, six miles and a half, in twenty-eight minutes, The team used from Streatham to Purley consisted of wheelers, grey gelding Charley, grey gelding Cahirmee; leaders, chestnut gelding Goodwood, chestnut gelding Cliftonville. The next stage was from Purley to Merstham, during which the wheelers were the grey gelding Makeshift and the dun gelding Tradesman, while the leaders were two grey geldings, Aldershot and Nutmeg. The stage between Merstham and Horley was covered by the grey gelding Dodger and the bay Gloucester as wheelers, with the chestnut gelding Returns and the grey Sago in the lead. At Horley they were replaced by a pair of bays, Dolly Varden and Leicester, as wheelers, and a pair of brown geldings Podge and Badger leading, by whom the coach was taken to Peas Pottage. The next stage was to Cuckfield, to which stop the team consisted of four geldings, Namesake, Wokingham, Romford, and Birmingham, the latter leading. The seventh stage is from Cuckfield to Friar's Oak, which was done by three bay geldings, George and Defiance wheelers, Stripes and a brown gelding Snip leaders. The last spin was performed by a pair of bay geldings, Hampton and Chester leading, and a roan mare Laurie and a chestnut gelding Ploughboy wheelers. On the morning of June 13 last Jem Selby started from the White Horse Cellar at ten o'clock, and descended from his box, for the first time that day, at the same place, at 5.50 P.M. There is very little doubt in the minds of his friends that to the terrible strain during this tremendous feat of endurance poor Selby's death is due. He fell ill a few days later, and never thoroughly recovered. So now, to-day, the "tits" he loved so well, and in whose interest and study nearly all his time was devoted, are to be sold at public auction.

There is a pleasant ring, however, in the tone of the announcement made yesterday to a *Pall Mall Gazette* reporter by the five subscribers to the Old Times coach: "Many of Selby's horses will undoubtedly return to their old vocation, and we intend running the Old Times in the spring, and for the season, from the White Horse Cellar to the Wheatsheaf, Virginia Waters, which is Jem Selby's old road."

These five gentlemen, Messrs. H. L. Beckett, A. F. McAdam, Walter Dickson, Alfred Broadwood and Captain C. V. Blyth, were at Aldridge's several times during the past few days and for several hours at a time. They are not likely to allow any of Selby's favorites to go out of their hands without a tussle, and doubtless sympathy will go a long way with all bidders. There is little doubt, indeed, that a very handsome sum will be realized by the sale, for the horses are many of them very valuable animals outside of fancy or sympathy, and there are also a number of carriages and extremely valuable pictures and paintings.

Besides the coach teams above mentioned, there are thirty yard and spare horses, all, or nearly all, of which were used in the coach. Among them is "Savernake," Selby's own favourite bay mare, which he was accustomed to drive in his buggy. She is described by a well-known judge of horseflesh as a perfectly remarkable animal, worth anything that she may fetch.

Very much interest will attach to the sale of Selby's coach, the "Old Times." This may be expected to fetch a fancy price if there are many competitors for it; but, as has been intimated above, the late subscribers mean to have it if possible, and intend driving it over the old road this spring. These gentlemen are not likely to brook much overbidding, and will be ready to count out anybody for their favourite old coach. The history of this coach dates back from 1878, ten years ago. Its first stages were done on the St. Albans road; in 1880 it went to Windsor, and in 1881 was driven by Selby regularly to Virginia Water, on which road it has continued until last summer. Selby began his trips to Brighton on the "Old Times" last winter, with Major Dickson, Sir Thomas Peyton, and Sir Henry De Bathe as his first subscribers. On the 18th January, 1881, Selby made a remarkable journey in a snowstorm to Windsor and back on the coach, with Major Dickson for his only companion. On this occasion it is said that Selby's hat became frozen to his head, and he had to have himself "thawed out" of it. The coach so inseparably connected with Selby's name and fame is now for sale, and will this afternoon go to the highest bidder.

It is said, upon very good authority, that not all of Jem Selby's horses are to be sold. He is reported to have made a special request, before he died, that some five or six, which he singled out as favourites on account of some peculiarity or freak of character, should be destroyed, in order that they should never go into any other driver's hands. One of these is said to be 'Harkaway,' a handsome chestnut gelding, which was a "rank puller," and would never go except as a "near" leader. He was absolutely unmanageable in any other capacity, could neither be ridden nor driven, singly or paired. Selby, however, had him well in hand when leading his team on the near side, and would therefore never part with him in his lifetime. He, however, gave instructions that he should be killed as soon as he himself had no further use for him. It is, at any rate, certain that the name of 'Harkaway' does not appear upon the catalogue.

Besides the horses, the coach, and several buggies and phaetons, and numerous sets of harness, there are a number of fine pictures for sale, the property of the late "whip." Among these are an oil painting of the Bedford and London coach, several coloured engravings of the "North Country Mail," the "Mail Coach" and the "Stage Coach," "Mail Coach in a Snowstorm," and engravings of horses from paintings by Herring. There are also some sixty four-horse coach whips and several coaching horns.

AT THE SALE.

Aldridge's was probably never before so crowded with aristocratic and well-known admirers of horseflesh, long before the sale, which began punctually at twelve o'clock, when Mr. Stuart Freeman offered for sale the lease and goodwill of the late whip's house and property, at 7, Edgware-road. Among some of the most prominent of Selby's old friends who were present were noted Mr. W. B. Cosier; Mr. Farnell Watson, late the Master of the Warnham Stag hounds; Mr. E. Woodlands; Mr. Thomas Harveyson, of Finchley; and Mr. H. Woodruffe, of Hendon, who was Selby's oldest and most intimate friend, and whom he consulted as to the purchase of all the coach horses he ever bought. All the subscribers to the "Old Times" were of course present Prominent also was Mr. "Tom" Erica, of Newmarket, and Colonel Clitheroe, Quite a little stir was made when a gentleman with carefully waxed moustache pushed his way through the crowd, followed closely by two young fashionably-dressed ladies. However, by noon, pretty faces were by no means uncommon along the balcony, and as Mr. Freeman glanced now and then in that direction a nod from one, or an inclination of a hand from another, showed that interest in Selby's stud was by no means confined to the sterner sex. The observing eye cannot help asking, "Where on earth do these horsey men get their hats from?" No two are alike. Broad brims, narrow brims, flat crowns, round crowns, shiny, smooth, rough and unpolished, there they all are, and yet there is one unmistakable characteristic in each. There is not a doubt about the wearer being "horsey" in his tendencies. Oh, for a Cruikshank or a Leech to immortalize the sale of Jem Selby's horses!

THE PRINCE'S ECONOMIES.

The Prince of Wales has decided to effect certain economics, and the Sandringham expenses are to be considerably cut down next year. One of the home farms is to be given up, and the other will be reduced. The greater portion of the herd of shorthorns, and the flock of South Downs will be sold off in July. His Royal Highness would act more wisely if he sold his racing stud, and gave up racing, so far as ownership is concerned. His speculations in blood stock have been, so far, very unfortunate, and they must have cost him a moderate fortune during the last four years.—*Truth.*

THE LATEST EAST END MYSTERY.

A SOLDIER FOUND DEAD IN THE STREET.

At about four o'clock this morning an employé of the Great Eastern Railway Company was passing along Wellington-street, Mile-end, when he found the dead body of soldier belonging to the Bedfordshire Regiment lying across the pavement. The divisional surgeon of police was soon in attendance and found that the man had been dead some time. The body was removed to the Mile-end mortuary. The whole affair is mysterious. Since the man had apparently been dead some time it is very strange that the constable on beat duty should not have found the body earlier, and this consideration leads to the belief that the soldier had been removed from the place where he died to the spot at which the body was found.

OBJECTIONABLE THEATRICAL POSTERS.

WHAT THE ADVERTISING AGENTS SAY.

Being desirous of giving our readers the best opinions on the questions raised by the Wolverhampton magistrates yesterday anent what they consider the objectionable custom of theatrical entrepreneurs of placarding the hoardings of their town with posters likely to have an immoral tendency, a reporter was sent from this office to some of the most prominent advertising contractors in London.

"I DON'T THINK IT VERY SERIOUS OR VERY BAD."

Messrs. Clement Smith and Co.'s manager met our representative very courteously, and said:—

"I don't suppose any notice will be taken of these magisterial opinions. The objection appears to apply only to such posters as describe murders and outrages, and these are really very rare. There is no legal restriction of any kind concerning the character of picture posters, but I have not seen more than one or two at any time to which there could justly be raised any objection. We had a scene represented in our poster of "The Pointsman" of a man murdering another with a bottle—you may remember it. But I do not think it was very serious or bad. In fact I don't believe any such objection as the Wolverhampton magistrates have raised will or can have any widespread result."

AN ABSURD DICTUM.

"It is only worth laughing at," said Messrs. Willing's manager. "Why, if any such movement were to be attempted, the opposition would immediately be so enormous that it would be swamped at once. As a matter of fact, too, the posters only represent what actually occurs on the stage, and if it is not too bad for the stage, how can it be demoralizing when represented on the hoardings? Many of those posters, moreover, are very decidedly most artistic productions, and surely art cannot be said to have an immoral effect. No, no, on the face of it the matter is simply absurd and can never have any other effect than to cause a laugh at the expense of the very unwise Wolverhampton magistrates."

A CRACKER FROM TOM SMITH.

The manager of Messrs. Tom Smith and Co., 61, Frith-street, Soho, was also seen by our reporter. He said: "I do not think this action of the Wolverhampton magistrates will have any effect upon the trade. You see it is only the expression of an opinion. That does not amount to much any way, and in all probability it will be taken no more notice of. Of course if it should be taken up in other towns and boroughs then it might seriously damage the poster-printing business. But only for a time. The difficulty would be got over in some way or other, and perhaps some of the sensationalism which the Wolverhampton gentlemen so much object to would be eliminated. But I do not think any notice will be taken of the matter."

WHAT THEY DO IN AMERICA.

The authorities of Wolverhampton have undoubtedly broken ice in this country. They have been long forestalled in the United States. For some years past the City Councils of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and other cities have enacted local laws against this species of advertisement, and have strictly enforced them. Probably no people in the world produce more magnificent and expensive picture posters than do our cousins across the Atlantic; and in the matter of theatrical advertisements "striking" is the most moderate term that will apply to some of them. It is therefore, to say the least, amusing to see on the hoardings of the cities mentioned huge full-sized pictures of young women, in tights that give almost an appearance of nudity, with their lower extremities carefully covered with a second placard announcing the time of appearance or expected arrival in the city. This is the method employed by the advertising agents to evade the laws. They are obliged to have the pictures, for without the posters in some cities the theatres would not fill. Still the movement is hailed by managers pretty generally with favour, for these advertisements are beginning to be regarded as a most unnecessary and enormous expense. Wolverhampton may claim to have a good precedent, when some of the most immoral cities in the world have taken the initiative, and it cannot but be wished that the example will speedily be followed by other towns in the kingdom.

A FIRE AT MAPLE AND CO.'S PREMISES.

DESTRUCTION OF A FACTORY.

At half-past six o'clock this morning the neighbourhood of Tottenham-court-road was thrown into a state of alarm by the discovery that a fire had broken out in the well-known furnishing warehouses of Messrs. Maples in Tottenham-court-road. The fire, originated in a bedding factory, which is situated in Beaumont-place, at the back of the main buildings, and was first discovered by the watchman, who was the only person on the premises at the time. He saw flames issuing from the ground floor, and appears to have at once raised an alarm, and in a very few minutes the hydrants on Messrs. Maple's premises were set to work by the volunteer fire brigade in connection with the firm. In less than a quarter of an hour from the discovery of the outbreak fire brigade steamers and manuals began to arrive, and in about an hour there must have been twenty steamers present. The fire, which, owing to the prompt action of the fire brigade, was confined to the building where it originated, was practically out by eight o'clock, but not before the factory, which is a building of four stories, was entirely gutted.

Mr. Blundell Maple, M.P., informed our representative that not a single hand will be thrown out of work in consequence of the outbreak. At eleven o'clock this morning the firemen were still playing upon the building. Nothing is known of the origin of the fire. The building was closed last evening at seven o'clock, and no one was left within the building.

Messrs. Maple inform us that the damage and consequent loss to the insurance offices will be but slight, and the business of course will not be interfered with in the slightest degree.

WHAT THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMERS SAW.

REPORTS ON THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF YESTERDAY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—Reports have been received here from various stations of the total eclipse of the sun to-day. The weather was clear at nearly all points of observation.

Mr. Smith, director of the Warner Observatory, stationed at Nelson, in California, reports that as far as it afforded an opportune search for intra-Mercurial planets, it was a failure, owing to clouds and haze at all four contacts. A well-made chronometer previously set to Lick University time was used. Five very small colourless protuberances were seen, all having pointed apexes. Near the point of one was another detached from the sun. Bailey's beads were seen at the second and third contacts, but entirely unlike those seen at Denver in 1878. The corona could not be drawn, but as seen through the telescopes it was not very extensive.

At Brass Valley during the period of totality, the stars and large planets were seen with the naked eye. From that point the corona and protuberances offered a grand spectacle. The thermometer fell 7 deg. between the moment of first contact and totality.

At Virginia city, Nevada territory, the thermometer fell ten degrees during the progress of the eclipse. To the observers at Healdsburg nineteen-twentieths of the sun's surface was obscured. The period of totality was eighty seconds. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Mercury, and the principal fixed stars were visible. The corona appeared with long rays of light parallel to the sun's equator. Professor Toll secured a number of fine photographs of the corona, showing rays extending ten or twelve degrees from the sun. Only rose-coloured protuberances were visible.

At Orland the period of totality was 110 seconds; Venus and other stars were visible. Three successful photographs were taken. At Winnemucca, Nevada, the observers were entirely successful. Accurate observations were made of the times of contact. One observer discovered a comet near the sun. No appreciable change of temperature was noticed at this station. Accurate observations were also made of the shadow bands. The corona was similar in general appearance to that of 1878. The streamers extended to a distance of from three to four diameters, and the red protuberances were strongly marked.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The *New York Herald* publishes a despatch from its Chicago correspondent stating that nine photographs were taken during totality and seven between the first and last contacts. The naked eye view of the corona was very fine. At the beginning of totality intense red flames burst out on the sun's western side, covering a space of ninety degrees. During totality the birds flew into the trees to roost and the cocks crowed.

A RUMOURED ROYAL ALLIANCE.

As the rumour that Princess Louise of Wales is engaged to a popular Scottish peer is abroad, there is no harm (writes the London correspondent of the *York Herald*) in saying that the Earl of Fife is meant. Whether the report is correct or not, it will not be denied that if the Princess is to marry a peer, there is no member of the Upper House more eligible as a suitor. Lord Fife, who is one of the Prince of Wales's personal friends, was born in 1849, has ten seats, a town residence, belongs to nine clubs, is lord-lieutenant of Elginshire, and altogether immensely rich. Hitherto, he has almost been regarded as a confirmed bachelor.

THE EULOGY OF RELIGION.

BY MR. FREDERIC HARRISON.

It was an audience select though few that found its way to Newton Hall last evening to listen to Mr. Frederic Harrison's usual New Year's address to the Positivist Society. Evergreen wreaths were hung on the busts of the illustrious dead which are placed around the Hall; the effigy of Auguste Comte which stood just beneath the lectern from which Mr. Harrison read his address being especially honoured. Punctually at five o'clock the orator, at whose side sat Professor Beesly, mounted the little platform, took his place at the reading desk, fitted his pince-nez, and commenced his address. He talked for an hour; and the main points of his address are set forth in the paragraphs which follow:—

Mr. Frederic Harrison commenced by remarking that it was encouraging to note that the progress made by the society during 1888 had been of a marked kind. The community at Newton Hall had spontaneously become more of a brotherhood in feeling and in act. Their endeavour was to supply the religious, social, intellectual, and political needs of its members. Churches and chapels might give their congregations beautiful music and afford society of a pleasant character; but they did not teach geometry, history, and physics as Newton Hall did. In a word, Newton Hall offered freely a systematic religion, a systematic education, and a systematic policy, all based upon the double conception of Science and Humanity.

UNIVERSAL PREPARATION FOR WAR.

Having instituted a comparison between the condition of affairs now and at the time of the French Revolution a hundred years ago, Mr. Harrison expressed his opinion that the state of Europe in 1889 is as menacing and unstable as it has ever been. The armaments of every country grow year by year; and England has her share of the European *malaise* in the Irish question. "Russia, Germany, Austria, Turkey, Italy, Spain, and France," said he, "are all monstrous outgrowths of warlike ambition and Imperial pride, though in very different degrees and under different conditions. . . . . Home Rule is the great need, not of Ireland only and of the British Empire, but of Russia, Germany, and Italy, of Spain, even of France, which is fond of regarding itself as a homogeneous nation." The cause of the nations could, he thought, hope for nothing from Commerce or Literature. Traders and journalists are the very dogs of war. The people themselves are our only hope.

THE CONQUEST OF AFRICA.

One of the most melancholy forms which Imperialism is taking at the present moment (continued Mr. Harrison) is the exploitation of the vast African continent. It aims at "plundering and enslaving Africa, and at the crushing and demoralizing of the African races." Europeans can only establish themselves as conquerors in Africa: generations may pass, but they can do no more than dominate the actual inhabitants. The thirst for gain and the pride of Empire will ultimately parcel out Africa into a dozen Hindostans, where the Whites must for centuries be mere trading masters and the natives mere demoralized slaves.

THE PANACEA FOR ALL EVILS—RELIGION.

According to Mr. Harrison, then, things are come to this pass: Europe is armed to the teeth; the nations glare at each other with jealousy and hate: the social condition of the people is growing gradually worse; the white races of the West are striving to carve out new empires in Africa. What is to be done? What is likely to make things better? Religion. We are without religion. Neither morality nor the spirit of the age is able to cope with the degeneracy around us. Morality lacks potency. The ethical systems of Cicero, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius were as pure as those of Alfred and Cromwell. But the former could not transform an epoch. The latter did it. They had religion.

THE STATE OF FRANCE.

A hundred years have passed since the fall of the Bastile visibly inaugurated that new era from which so much has been expected in vain. Noble souls have striven for the social and moral improvement of mankind: Turgot, Franklin, Leibnitz, Diderot, Adam Smith, Friedrich I., Cowper, Burns, Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, Shelley, Goethe, Lessing, Hugo, Rousseau, Howard, Raikes—all found their inspiration in their belief in the advancement of the human race. "And yet how fast do the forces of evil seem to crush out high hopes and neutralize the best dreams." To take the case of France, Mr. Harrison pointed out that she was about to celebrate her grand centenary in terror and in anger, "waiting each day for war or rebellion, for social or political disturbance, overwhelmed with a monstrous debt, humiliated by financial disaster, torn by faction, without statesmen or stable system, accused of being the seat of a particularly foul form of moral corruption." France wanted religion; nor were Germany, Russia, Italy, and Austria in a much happier position.

THERE IS NO GOD BUT HUMANITY.

Religion is wanted everywhere: everybody will admit that; but what religion? Christianity is, according to the Positivist, a failure. Theology and Science (as Mr. Harrison cleverly put it) stand apparently in hopeless deadlock—in a death-grapple where neither can crush the other or free itself. The power of Christianity over the intellectual life of a scientific age is a negative quantity. Christianity cannot solve the problems presented to it. Neither can the "insolent folly of atheism," nor the "self-complacency of Agnosticism," nor even the "vague mysticisms of theosophy." Reduced to syllogistic form, Mr. Frederic Harrison's conclusion is this: Humanity imperatively needs a good religion, but Positivism is the only good religion; therefore Humanity must have Positivism.

THE GREAT ROBBERY AT AN AMBASSADOR'S.

FURTHER AND FULLER PARTICULARS.

We reported briefly yesterday that the house of the Austrian Ambassador at Bournemouth was broken into during Monday night, and about £3,000 worth of the Countess Deym's jewels were stolen. It appears that the Count and Countess Deym and suite, who have taken the Knowle, Boscombe, Bournemouth, for the winter, had been away in London for a few days, and that on returning home on Monday night Count Deym, on going to his room, found it locked on the inside, and his suspicions that something was wrong being aroused he had the door burst open. It was then found that his own room and that of the Countess had been ransacked, but a close investigation revealed the fact that nothing but jewellery had been taken, and that, although the value of that stolen amounted to some £3,000, another jewel case, containing jewellery of great value, had not been discovered by the burglars, who, from the indications of confusion around, appeared to have done their work hurriedly. Access to the house had unmistakably been gained by means of a ladder, reaching to the roof, and from the fact that an empty black bag was found on the lawn, it looked as though the thieves had beat a hasty retreat from some cause or other. An examination of the grounds revealed the fact that the walks had been laced across at frequent intervals with string with a view to impeding pursuit in the event of the burglars being discovered and chased. A list of missing articles is in the hands of the police, who are making investigations; but as the robbery has been effected, it is thought, by London experts, there does not at present appear to be much chance of finding a clue.

The jewels stolen include six roses in Oriental pearls, value £1,500: a sapphire locket with diamonds, value £300; a tiara, containing seven large diamonds, value £600; a tiara of diamonds in five roses, worth £300; a diamond true-lover's knot, worth £150; a large bracelet set with sapphires and diamonds, value £200; a cross, containing eighty small Oriental pearls, value £90; the Order of the Austrian Cross in red case, a portemonnaie containing 500 marks in paper-money, one £10 Bank note, and various articles of jewellery. It is believed that Countess Deym, who went up a few minutes before the door was found locked, must have been in her room when the burglar was in the house.

KING MILAN THREATENS STRONG MEASURES.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ENTIRE.

The crisis in Servia yesterday reached an acute point. At yesterday morning's sitting the Government delegates were informed that the Radicals wished the whole Constitution amended in ten points, and the Liberals in four separate points. The members of the Committee also begged that they might have audience of the King. A message having been sent to the Palace, the King agreed to receive the Committee, and the audience took place at one o'clock.

General Gruitch, speaking for the Radicals, and M. Ristitch for the Liberals, explained the grievances of the two parties, and the King listened with great attention. He then answered, in a firm tone:—"What you ask is impossible. I have repeatedly told you that this Constitution is not my work, but that of a Commission representing all parties in the nation. I cannot interfere with their draft, and will not. I have pushed my concessions to the uttermost, and I tell the Great Skuptschina that the Constitution must be accepted or rejected entire. The world is witness that I have endeavoured to establish a Liberal Constitution: on your heads be the fault if my purpose miscarries! Let me warn you again, that unless the Constitution be passed as it stands, I shall dissolve the Skuptschina, and rule as I please." The astounding vehemence of the King, as he delivered this plain harangue, took the members of the Committee by surprise and they marched out in silence, looking crestfallen. The Committee of the Skuptschina met later in the day, and decided by 41 votes to 4 that the Constitution should be voted entire. Eight members would not vote. The Constitution will accordingly be voted to-day, and to-morrow the King will close the session with a Speech from the Throne.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

HOME RAILWAYS ARE BUOYANT.—FOREIGN STOCKS AND AMERICANS FIRM.

The decline in open market rates for money goes merrily on. The supply of loanable capital at the moment is more than sufficient to meet ordinary requirements, and borrowers are consequently able to obtain advances at as low as 3½ per cent. as compared with 6 per cent. on Monday. Repayments, however, are daily falling due at the Bank of England, and at the latter end of the week will be very heavy, but still if the market can liquidate these debts, they will at the beginning of next week have the dividend money to fall back upon. The discount rate for three months' Bank paper is now little better than 3½ per cent., and it is not at all unlikely that this continued fall will not only check the receipts of the small amounts of gold which have lately been sent into the Bank, but will cause us to lose gold.

Although operators have as yet hardly settled down to hard work after the holidays, there is a fair amount of business doing, and mostly on the basis of a belief in higher quotations. The principal advance is in the department for English Railways where another batch of favourable traffic returns have stimulated purchases particularly in the case of the stocks of the goods carrying lines. North British Deferred has again been bought and the price is now at the highest point touched since the stock was created. The traffics of the underground lines have rather weakened the prices of District and Metropolitan stocks. High-class investment stocks of all kinds are again in favour, "Goschen's" having advanced a further ⅛ for money. Foreign stocks are quiet and without change of importance, after making allowance for the deduction of the half-yearly interest, which is now, in several cases, taken off. American Railways are all higher though only to a slight fractional extent. Trunks are dull on the revenue statement published yesterday, but Mexican Railway issues notwithstanding a take for the week of £12,000 only have recovered a trifle. Mines and Miscellaneous securities are quiet.

The popularity of investment trusts is shown by the fact that the capital of a million asked for by the International Investment Trust was fully subscribed before the subscription lists were opened this morning. It does not follow that those who send in applications to-day will be refused an allotment.

The copper statistics published by Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. bear out the estimates already published as to the amount of the metal which the syndicate has to finance. The total visible stocks now amount to 104,000 tons as compared with 42,000 tons a year ago. As if this were not a heavy enough burden to bear, the *Standard's* City editor goes on to show this morning that these figures take no account of the accumulations at the mines or of the stocks in the United States, all of which the copper ring must control to prevent an immediate collapse of their undertaking. These concealed supplies are put at 50,000 tons, bringing the holding of the syndicate up to 150,000 tons. At the price of say £60 per ton, this represents a locking up of £9,000,000 of money, Still further our contemporary adds three millions for manipulating the shares of the copper companies, bringing the total up to £12,000,000. Taking it that this money costs 4 per cent., the syndicate must have been paying away at the rate of something like half a million of money per annum of their possible profits. The conclusion, of course, is that a crash is inevitable, and when the "break-down does come money will disappear in millions, and the copper-mining industry will not free itself from the ruin for years to come. But then our contemporary's City representative is a confirmed pessimist.

TRAFFICS.—*Increases*: North Eastern £11,126, Midland £8,721, Great Eastern £5,677, Lancashire and Yorkshire £4,424, Caledonian £1,687, North Staffordshire £650, Eastern and Midland £10. *Decreases*: District £383, Metropolitan £309, Sheffield £209, Mexican £1,000.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Market opened quiet. Probable sales 10,000, bales. Prices on the spot are steady. Futures one point up.

The accounts of the London Tramways Company (Limited) for the half-year ending 31st December, after making deductions for repairs and renewals, &c., amounting in the aggregate to £18,400, show a net income of £30,149, against £17,402 and £31,393 for the corresponding half of 1887. This enables a dividend of 10s. per share to be paid on the ordinary shares, and 3s. 7d. per certificate on the scrip certificates. The number of passengers carried during the half-year was 28,219,329, and the mileage run, 3,186,159.

The directors of the City Bank (Limited) have declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

The directors of the Halifax and Huddersfield Union Banking Company (Limited) have added from profits £5,000 to the reserve fund and declared a dividend of 10s. per share for the half-year ending December 31 last, making a total distribution of 10 per cent. per annum.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Midland ⅝, North British Deferred ½, Great Western, North Western, and Brighton Deferred ⅜, Caledonian, North Eastern, and South Eastern Deferred ¼, and Great Eastern ⅛. *Receded*: Metropolitan Land ½, and Hull and Barnsley ¼.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Austrian Silver ½, Egyptian Daira ⅛, the Unified ⅛, Spanish, and Turkish Group 4 ⅛, Peruvian 1870 ⅜, and the 1872 1-16. *Declined*: Buenos Ayres Cedulas I ½, and Argentine Hard Dollars ¼.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Risen*: Illinois Central ½, Northern Pacific Preference and Philadelphia and Reading shares ⅜, Lake Shore, Milwaukee, Erie shares, and Second Mortgage, Norfolk and Western Preference, Pennsylvania shares, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary, and Union Pacific ¼ each, Central Pacific, Louisville and Nashville, New York Central, and Ontario ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Canadian Pacific ¼, Mexican First Preference ¼, the Ordinary ⅛, and Lombardo-Venetian 1-16. *Lower*: Grand Trunk Guaranteed ¼, the Second Preference ⅛, and the Ordinary 1-16.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Higher*: Suez Canal ¼, De Beers ⅛, Rio Tinto 1-16, and Imperial Ottoman Bank 1-16. *Lower*: Primitiva Nitrate ¼, and Cape ⅛.

The following are this day's 12 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares —

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			Brighton A.....	132¾	3	London and West.	68½	9½
Consols	99⅝	⅜	Chatham(Ordinary)	24½	½	London Joint Stock	40	1
New Consols (2¾)	98	⅜	Do. Preference..	105	½	Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43	4
Reduced 3 p. c. ...	100	⅜	North Western	173½	½	Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	48	9
Local Loan Stock..	103	⅜	South Western	142½	3½	**MINES.**		
New 2½ per Cent.	94¼	5⅛	Manchester & Shef.	68	70	Indian Consolidated	⅜	3/16
India 3½ per Cent.	107	½	Do. A	38	½	Mysore shares	3½	3/16
Do. 4½ p. c. Ru.	70¾	½	Met. Consolidated	77	½	Oaregums	1 9/16	11/16
Egyptian Guar. ..	101	2	Do. Land Stock	69½	70½	Cape Copper	3⅞	6¼
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	111¼	12½	Do. District ..	23¾	¾	Namaqua	3⅝	⅛
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	103½	4½	Midland	137	½	Mason and Barry..	10⅛	⅜
BirminghamCrp.St	111	12	North British Pref.	73¼	¼	Rio Tinto	25⅜	⅛
Liverpool	110¼	¾	Do. Def.	56⅞	⅜	Montana £1 shares	2⅛	⅛
FOREIGN STOCKS.			North Eastern	163½	¾	DeBeers new shares	15¼	⅛
Argentine 6 p. c. ..	101	3	North Stafford	112	14	S. African Explor.	17⅜	⅞x all
Do. Hard Dols..	67⅛	8¼	South Eastern	132	4	**TEL'GRAPHS & TEL'PHONES**		
Do. Treasury ..	93	5	Do. Deferred....	108¾	⅝	Anglo-American ..	48½	9¼
Austrian Gold	90	2	**FOREIGN RAILWAYS.**			Do. Pref.....	81	2
Do. Silver	69¼	70½	Canada Pacific	54¼	½	BrazilianSubmarine	13¾	⅛
Brazilian 1875	101	2 xd	Can. Pacific Share	53⅝	½	Direct Unit. States	9⅞	10⅛
B. Ayres 6 p. c....	100	2	Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	63½	½	Eastern	12⅜	⅜
Do. Cedulas I...	58½	9	Denver & R. Grande	17¼	½	Ditto Extension..	12½	¼
Do. Cedulas II...	101	3	Do. Pref.....	46	½	United Telephone	13⅞	14⅛
Chilian 4½ p. c. 1885	101	3	Illinois Shares	117½	18½	Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅞	7¼
Costa Rica A.....	92	3	Lake Shore	106¾	⅝	**TRAMWAYS, ETC.**		
Do. B	50½	1½	Ohio & Mississippi	22	½	London Gen. Om..	196	205
Egypt. State Dom.	100¼	1	Louis. and Nash..	53⅝	¼	London Street	13	14
Do. Unified	83¼	⅜	Mex. Cen. Bonds..	69¼	70⅛	London Tramway..	14	15
Do. Preference ..	101½	2	Miss. Kan. & Texas	13¾	14¼	North Metropolitan	17⅛	18
Do. Daira Sanieh	79½	¾	N. Y. Cen. Shares	111¾	12¼	**WATERWORKS.**		
French 3 p. c. Rnts.	81½	2 xd	New York Ontario	15¾	⅜	ChelseaWaterworks	256	61 xd
Do. 4½ p. c. Rnts.	102⅜	3¼	Erie Shares	28⅛	¾	East London'.....	199	202
Greek 6 p. c. 1881..	83¾	4½ xd	Do. Sec. Mort..	100¾	¼	Grand Junction ..	121	5
Hung. Gold Rentes	84½	¾ xd	Nortolk & West. Pref	52¾	½	Kent	276	80
Italian	95⅜	¼ xd	N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	34½	5 xd	Lambeth	252	7 xd
Mexican Converted	39⅜	9¼ xd	North Pacific Pref.	61¼	⅞	New River, New..	350	60
Peruvian 6 p. c. '72	14¾	10	Pennsylvania Sh..	54⅝	5	Sthwrk & Vauxhall	166	71
Do. 6 p. c.	16¼	½	Phil. & Read. Sh..	25	¼	W. Middlesex	261	5
Portuguese.....	63½	¾ xd	Union Pacific Shares	69¾	6	**GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.**		
Russian 1873	93½	¾	Wabash Preference	25⅝	5	Gaslight & Coke A	248	52
Spanish 4 p. c.	71¾	2¼ xd	Do. Gen. Mort..	40	1	Imp. Continental ..	204	7
Turkish 1854	99⅞	101	Grand Trunk Ord.	10¼	½	South Metropolitan	297	302
Group 1	26¼	⅜	Do. First Pref..	68⅜	⅝	BrushElec.Lt.(4pd)	3¾	4¼
Group 2	15¾	½	Do. Second Pref.	45¼	⅝	**MISCELLANEOUS.**		
Group 4	14⅞	15⅝	Do. Third Pref..	23¾	¼	Allsopp	8¾	½
4½ p. c. 1871....	83	½	Do. Guaranteed .	70¾	1¼	Guinness and Co...	312½	17½
5 p. c. Defence ..	95	½	Mexican Ordinary	42⅜	3½	Hotchkiss	10¾	11
5 p. c. Priority ..	82	4	Do. First Pref.	116¾	16¼	Bryant and May ..	12⅞	13¾
Uruguay Unified ..	62½	9	Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	70½	1	Spratt's Patent	10¾	⅜
Virginia Funded ..	40	1	Lombardo-Venetian	6⅜	⅞	Liverpool Nitrate..	30½	1½
U.S. 4½ p. c.....	103½	10½	Varna 5 per cent..	7⅝	⅛	Primitiva Nitrate..	37½	8
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			Nitrate Railway ..	27⅞	8¾	Salt Union Shares	3¼	4 pm
Caledonian.....	113¾	⅞	**BANKS.**			Ed. and O. Steam ..	6⅝	⅜
Great Eastern	63½	¾	Alliance Bank	14¼	¾	Royal Mail Steam	62	4
Great Northern....	117	18	City Bank	20½	1½	Nat. Discount Co..	11½	12
Ditto A	101½	2½	Consolidated Bank	8	⅛	Hudson's Bay	18¾	19
Great Western	151⅜	⅞	Imperial Ottoman	11	⅞	Suez Canal.....	85¾	¾xd
Hull and Barnsley	32¼	3¼	London and County	85	7	E. & W. Ind. Dock	17	20
Lanc. and York....	117	18	Union of London..	40	1	London and St. K.	39	41
Brighton(Ordinary)	143	5						

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos.....	13½	¾	Wemmers	14½	1⅛
Tarapaca Water	16⅜	17⅝	Langlaagtes	6¾	⅜
Oceana Land	18	19	Jubilee	1⅛	⅛
Sumper's Gold	13	½	San Jorge.....	9	½pm
es Bona.....	6	½			

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

The Earl and Countess of Aberdeen left Grosvenor-square yesterday for Haddo House. They will not return to town till February. Lord Aberdeen remained in London until the New Year in order to speak for Captain Sinclair, who is standing in East Finsbury for the London County Council. Captain Sinclair is a promising and excellent candidate, given to good works, a honest and straightforward young fellow, whom I hope some day to see in the House of Commons, where there is sore need of such as he.

***

Mrs. Butler hopes to be able to take Canon Butler to the Riviera for a short time if his strength rallies sufficiently to enable him to stand the journey. Both Canon and Mrs. Butler have been very ill this Christmas.

***

Mr. and Mrs. Cuninghame Graham left London last night for Spain, and will sleep to-night at Bordeaux. They will be absent three months. Mrs. Graham will devote the time to sketching the places identified with St. Teresa's life and labours in the Peninsula, with the view of illustrating a popular life of the great saint upon which she has been engaged for some time.

***

Count Léo Tolstoi and his family left Yasnaia Poliana when the winter set in, and are now living in Moscow. It may interest people to know that "Miss Hyde," the English governess in Count Tolstoi's household, is the daughter of a builder in Deddington, Oxon. In her native village some of her friends entertained the most extraordinary ideas as to the heathen nature of Muscovy. Some of them were immensely relieved when they learned that she was allowed to read her Bible without fear of being sent to Siberia!

***

Canon MacColl leaves London to-day for Ripon, where he will spend the next three months as Resident Canon at the cathedral. Canon Liddon left Ripon for town yesterday, his term of residence being ended. He will not return to town till April. Last month, what with ill health and the fog, the Canon was hardly up to his usual high level.

***

I regret to hear from a correspondent in Naples that Mr. Gladstone seems in her own words to "be looking so old and shaky and ill." He is old, no doubt, but the impression as to his ill health is probably only a stranger's mistake.

***

I hear of a picturesque new music room which Pasha Broadley has built for himself in his retreat in Regent's Park, when he seeks relief from the humming crowd. It is naturally decorated in the Arabesque style. The Pasha will be at home before long.

***

The *foyer* of the Lyceum was again a sight to see all yesterday. It was literally blocked with applicants for places.

***

What an amusing place is the stage door of a great theatre, and especially during the run of a pantomime! Take Drury Lane: the doors banging, Robin Hood's merry men popping out their heads for a minute, boys scurrying in with cups of tea and rolls and butters from an adjacent coffee-house, little fairies rushing in breathless and fearsome of rebuke for unpunctuality, bare-armed supers, belated ballet girls, and all the heterogeneous crowd which a pantomime calls together.

***

I amused myself by reading some of the notices on the walls: "Ladies who are late for the toy ballet will be fined if not in their places at such and such an hour." "Lost a diamond brooch between Nos. 10 and 20 dressing-rooms." "Found an emerald ear-drop on the stage," with many Draconian decrees signed by Mr. Druriolanus.

***

Passing by Westminster Abbey yesterday morning it occurred to me to see how the venerable pile looked in the fog, which enveloped it in its folds. Strange to say, the atmosphere was almost clear, though the gas shed a ghostly light upon the tombstones. I walked up the aisle and stopped for a few minutes before the grey stone slab which covers the mortal remains of Charles Dickens.

***

Some good soul had laid a simple wreath of holly at the head of the grave as a sympathetic Christmas tribute to the great novelist who had done so much to glorify the season of peace and goodwill. I learned afterwards that it was placed there by his sisters, in accordance with their yearly custom. Two other wreaths which had recently been placed on the tomb had decayed, and had been taken away.

***

A 'bus driver told me yesterday that it took him three hours to get from Liverpool-street to Brompton. "It wasn't so bad," he said, "until we got to the Athenæum Club, and then it was like coming out of a well-lighted room into a dead darkness. We nearly knocked the old Dook—the noo Dook, begging his parding—off his legs. When we got to Brompton, bless me if I know 'ow we did it: there was six of us with our hosses noses to noses, and an old coal waggin nearly ran slap through the lot of us."

THE NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Mr. L. H. Courtney, M.P., Chairman of Committees, and Baron Henry De Worms, M.P., to be members of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Queen has been pleased to confer a Baronetcy of the United Kingdom upon Sir Frederick Bramwell. Sir Frederick Bramwell was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1884-85, having at an earlier period been also President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He was Assessor of the Committee which inquired into the explosion on board her Majesty's ship *Thunderer*, and has since served on several Government Committees. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1873, and in 1886 received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from Oxford University. Sir F. Bramwell was Chairman of the Executive Council of the Inventions Exhibition, and has for some time been Chairman of the City and Guilds of London Institute. The honour of Knighthood was conferred upon him eight years ago for his services in promoting technical education.

To be Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.—Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., her Majesty's Representative at Teheran.

To be Companions of the Bath.—Colonel Euan Smith, her Majesty's Consul-General at Zanzibar; Mr. Henry Maxwell Lyte, Deputy-Keeper of the Records.

Knighted.—Mr. John Turney, mayor of Nottingham; Mr. Charles Wathen, mayor of Bristol; Mr. Alexander Miller, Q.C.; Chief Justice John Campbell Allen, New Brunswick; Chief Justice William Conrad Reeves, Barbados. Sir Alexander Miller was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1854. He was made a Q.C. and a Bencher of his Inn in 1872, and three years later he received the honorary distinction of LL.D. In 1887 he was appointed legal member of the Railway Commission, and held that office until Monday last, it being his intention in future to practise at the Bar.

To be Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.—Sir Hugh Low, K.C.M.G., late British Resident at Perak, Malay Peninsula.

To be Knights Commanders of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.—Sir Herbert Bruce Sandford, Knight, late Secretary in Australia of the Royal Commission for the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition, 1887; Roger Tuckfield Goldsworthy, Esq., C.M.G., Governor of the Colony of British Honduras; Joseph William Trutch, Esq., C.M.G., late Resident Agent for the Dominion of Canada in British Columbia; Lieutenant-General Thomas Lionel John Gallwey, Royal Engineers, late Governor of the Bermuda Islands.

To be Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.—Arthur Cecil Stuart Barkly, Esq., Governor of the Island of Heligoland; Lieutenant-General Henry Augustus Smythe, R.A., commanding the troops at the Cape of Good Hope; George Woodroffe Goyder, Esq., Surveyor-General of the Colony of South Australia; Major-General John Ryder Oliver, R.A., late Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, in the Dominion of Canada; Count Strickland della Catena, President of the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese Nobility; Cavendish Boyle, Esq., Colonial Secretary of Gibraltar.

To be Knights Commanders of the Order of the Star of India.—David Miller Barbour, Esq., C.S.I., Bengal Civil Service, Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India; Nawab Muhammad Akram Khan, C.S.I., Chief of Amb.

HATCHARDS, BOOKSELLERS, 187, PICCADILLY, W. All the New and Standard Books. Discount 2d in the shilling. Post orders promptly executed.

DR. PARKER ON THE THEATRE.

THE MORALITY OF ACTORS.

The Rev. Dr. Parker is at present on a visit to Sunderland. He has been giving a *Newcastle Leader* reporter his views on matters theatrical.

SOME THEATRES LIKE CHURCHES.

Is any progress, asked the reporter, being made in the matter of Church and Stage? A very great change, replied Dr. Parker, is certainly taking place in the conviction and feeling of Christian people regarding the stage. We must always distinguish between theatres and theatres. To speak of the theatre as a unit is simply unfair to the various aspects which the term presents. Some theatres would disgrace even perdition itself; other theatres are more like churches as to decorum and to conduct generally than any institutions with which I am acquainted. The author of a popular play called "Saints and Sinners" invited me to go and see its performance, and to give him a judgment as to its moral tone. I accepted the invitation, and on leaving the theatre I exclaimed to my friends, "God bless the man that wrote so admirable and so useful a play." That piece was simply a dramatic sermon of the most powerful kind as to doctrine, eloquence, and spiritual effect. I can safely defy any man to bring a word of reproach upon the theatre presided over by Mr. Henry Irving, who is doing all in his power to elevate the educational and moral tone of the stage, and therefore he deserves the heartiest support of all earnest Christian workers.

HOW GOOD A MAN MR. TOOLE IS.

"Have you read the reminiscences of modern actors?" Yes, I have; and with the greatest possible interest and pleasure. I read the memoirs of Macready with intense delight. Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft's two volumes are overflowing with geniality, points of criticism, and varied social allusion. By the way, I may state that Mr. Bancroft was one of my hearers the other morning at the City Temple. The reminiscences of Mr. J. L. Toole also delighted me beyond measure. Toole has always been a favourite of mine, but I never really knew how good a man he is until I read his glittering reminiscences.

ACTORS' REMINISCENCES, AND SERMON-MAKING.

I cannot help thinking that acquaintance with the kind of literature you refer to (reminiscences of actors) is helpful even to preachers. It is, in my opinion, a grand mistake on the part of preachers to live a monastic life, mixing only with their fellow-thinkers and fellow-worshippers, talking everlastingly on the same subjects, and agitating themselves with paltry controversies about words and forms. Preachers should get abroad among men, comprehend and appreciate varieties of character, study the pleasures of the people, and in various ways acquaint themselves with real, throbbing tragic life around them. It is no use preaching the same old things to the same old people until everybody is either indifferent or asleep; let the pulpit begin to address the age, and no doubt the age will come to hear the pulpit. I wish distinctly to say the reading of such works as you allude to will help any man to widen and deepen his religious appeals. To every young man, to every young preacher, I would say, read the memories of Macready, Bancroft, Toole, and also everything you can lay hold of relating to that eminent leader in dramatic education and reform—Henry Irving.

THE MORALS OF ACTORS AND ACTRESSES.

You will agree, then, that it is not right to characterize actors and actresses as bad men and women, as has often been done by so-called religious people? Nothing can be further from being right. I have a distinct personal authority that some managers and actors have been amongst the best Christian men that ever lived. The "Memoirs of Macready" might have been the record of the life of a Methodist preacher. All who know Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, Mr. Irving, Mr. Toole, Miss Terry, and others of that class will testify that they are continually doing good on a very liberal scale. No good will ever come of injustice, even to actors. Understand that there are some actors as bad as some preachers; and, on the other hand, understand that there are some preachers who are not a whit better than some actors. Let us be just and fear not.

HEAD MASTER OF THE LARGEST SCHOOL IN THE WORLD.

JUBILEE OF MR. MOSES ANGEL, OF THE JEWS' FREE SCHOOL

To-day there will be presented to Mr. Moses Angel, Head Master of the Jews' Free School at Spitalfields, a testimonial and address from the ex-teachers and past pupils of the school, to commemorate the entrance of Mr. Angel upon the fiftieth year of his head mastership. The gathering will be presided over by Lord Rothschild, and Mr. Mundella will make a speech. Mr. Angel will probably himself give a sketch of the school's history and his own career in connection with it. Some time ago this venerable man was asked to write a history of the Jews' Free School: His answer was characteristic, "I cannot, it would be my own history."

It is not generally known that the institution over which Mr. Angel exerts educational sway is the largest school in the world. It numbers 3,500 pupils, 2,250 boys and 1,250 girls. The testimonial to be presented by the ex-teachers and past pupils will take the form of a scholarship bearing Mr. Angel's name, to be awarded at stated periods to a pupil of the school. An illuminated address of congratulation will accompany it, and will be presented by a representative deputation of the donors.

Mr. Angel, who is now considerably over seventy years of age, is a wonderful example of the virility of his race. He is in appearance and manner so young and active, so energetic, fresh, and vigorous, as to make it not a difficult matter to believe him even ten years younger than he is. During the forty-nine years of his head mastership he has educated many of the present most prominent Jews in England, and has personally trained all the teachers in his school. So long has he been at the head of this institution, he has grown to consider the connection as almost inseparable but with life. His life and that of the school are one. It may reasonably be anticipated that the speech of this grand old man to-day will be of a very interesting character.

SOME STORIES OF "THE GREAT VANCE."

BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM WELL.

One of the most famous of the "lion comiques" is buried at Nunhead to-day, and we take the opportunity of giving some anecdotes about his career by one who knew him well.

HONOURED BY ROYALTY.

Vance was the first to introduce the use of the flaxen wig now so commonly worn by music hall artistes. He often grumbled at being imitated on this head but consoled himself by thinking they became none so well as himself. He was also the first, I believe, to dress in evening clothes.

Vance had the honour of appearing before Royalty at one part of his career and was proud of the fact as a matter of professional distinction. Once, during a tour round the provinces, another vocalist, who had visited a certain town a few days previously to Vance's party, had billed himself as having performed before the Prince of Wales. This was more than Vance could stand, and he took special pains in the course of the evening's performance to make the audience fully understand that Mr. Arthur Lloyd and himself were, up to that time, the only "comiques" who had delighted the Royal ears.

VANCE AND THE UNDERGRADUATES' CHANTS.

At one of the 'Varsity towns the undergraduates were indulging in some rather personal chaff respecting the performance on the first part of the programme, and insisted on giving a chorus to songs which had none, much to the dismay of the lady singers, who had never experienced before the playful humours of a 'Varsity man, and declared they would not appear again during the entertainment. Vance, however, soon made matters right by announcing from the stage that he would relax the general rule in their favour, and hoped in return they would give every one engaged fair play and "Act on the square." He then sang his popular song bearing this title, and his audience chorused to their hearts' content, and with every symptom of satisfaction at their own vocal display, being most indulgent to everything and everybody the remainder of the evening.

TWO OF HIS MOST POPULAR SONGS.

I remember Vance going on to sing one of his, at that time, most popular songs. It was on the stage of the Rotunda at Dublin. He was rather nettled to see that a large poster had been pinned to the curtain announcing the advent there of Mr. Arthur Lloyd. It certainly did not add to the beauty of the surroundings, and would have been more appropriately placed outside. The irritation it occasioned the singer passed off by the time his song was nearly finished, and Vance gave his brother "pro" a friendly "ad." by alluding to him as a "Pal o' Mine," that being the title of the song he was then singing.

Some time back a favourite impersonation with Vance was the "Chickaleary Bloke with his one-two-three"—a typical East-end character. When singing this song out of London he dropped that part of the "gag" which would be supposed only to "take on" in the metropolis itself. The singer was rather staggered, however, when on appearing in the above character at Cork Theatre—the old one now demolished—he was saluted by an unmistakable Whitechapel "Whoa!" On recovering he begged his "pal's" pardon for the omission, and hoped to meet him soon nearer to "Baker's-row."

THE "OLD MASTERS" AT THE ACADEMY.

A FORECAST OF THE FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

Concerning the forthcoming exhibition of the "Old Masters," which will open to the public on Monday next, the 6th inst., I am enabled (writes our Art Correspondent) to foreshadow its principal features with fair completeness, as the hanging was concluded on Friday last—a week before the press day. The whole of Gallery I. will be occupied with the entire collection of modern pictures formed between the years 1845 and 1855 by the late Mr. Thomas Miller of Preston. They form a most brilliant display of the works of Turner, Constable, Leslie, Mulready, Etty, John Frederick Lewis, Maclise, Collins, and Danby; in fact, examples of all the eminent men of that time. Particularly noteworthy will be the works of Augustus Egg, which will, I fancy, surprise the many who have never seen him well represented. A few of these were exhibited at the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of 1857.

Gallery II. contains some very choice Dutch pictures, together with Sir Richard Wallace's famous collection of Watteau's works, with some fine works of the French school, especially those by Claude. The Great Gallery has a whole side full of Rembrandts, belonging to Sir Richard Wallace and others, while opposite are some lovely Romneys, a magnificent Constable, and two splendid Turners, besides other pictures. Two large works of Rubens flank the door of this gallery, and at the other end is a gathering of Gainsborough, Romney, Hogarth, and other old English masters.

The next gallery—No. IV.—leading out of the big room, is devoted to Holl's works. The whole-lengths of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge will be found to form the centres, the former being supported by the Duke of Cleveland on the one side and by the Lord Spencer on the other, with subjects intervening. Subject-pictures flank "George Ranger"—two life-size girls. Portraits and incidents cover the remaining space on the walls.

The whole-length of John Bright, of Viscount Hampden, the late Speaker, have prominent places in Room V., the line being occupied with selected examples of the artist's best work, both in portraiture and subject. The "Newgate: Committed for Trial," from the Royal Holloway College, makes a large centre. Here also will be seen the Kepplestone autograph portrait of the artist, which was lately engraved in the *Magazine of Art*, as well as a life-size head of him at the age of eighteen. These, together with his portrait of his father, Francis Holl, A.R.A., of the Bishop of Peterborough, Lord Winmarleigh, Lord Wolseley, and, perhaps the finest of all, Mr. Carput, comprise the chief works of interest in the room.

It will thus be seen that the "Old Masters" Exhibition of 1889 will be of the most varied interest of any since the establishment of the institution. But not only in "oils" will it be of quite the highest interest: water-colour, too, is not forgotten. Some of Turner's masterpieces will be exhibited—doubtless the finest ever done in this world (or any other)—as well as studies on the Rhine and elsewhere. It will be seen that the idea of exhibiting collections of deceased English masters *en bloc* is a good one, of great educational value, and thoroughly patriotic in spirit. No better method could be adopted to bring the work of the English school to the acquaintance of the public.

MULTIPLE VOTING FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

The Local Government Board has expressed its opinion that a person can only vote in the election of councillors of a county in one electoral division of such county.

THE PEN STILL MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD.

The pen industry at Birmingham continues in a prosperous condition, and the past year has in many respects been one of the most successful for some years past. All the leading establishments have been fully occupied, and both the home and export demand is steadily growing.

A SCOTCHMAN AT THE HEAD OF IT.

Mr. George Yule, the president of the Indian National Congress, is a son of the late Mr. Robert Yule, draper, Stonehaven. He served his apprenticeship with his father at Stonehaven, and subsequently removed to Aberdeen.

SEVEN MILLION AND A HALF TOOTHPICKS A DAY.

A wood toothpick factory is one of the flourishing wood-working establishments of Harbour Springs, Michigan, U.S. White birch is exclusively used in the manufacture of the toothpicks, and about 7,500,000 of the little splinters are turned out daily. The logs are sawn up into bolts each 28 in. in length, then thoroughly steamed and cut up into veneer. The veneer is cut into long ribbons, three inches in width, and these ribbons, eight or ten at a time, are run through the toothpick machinery, coming out at the other end, the perfect pieces falling into one basket, the broken pieces and refuse falling into another. The picks are packed into boxes, 1,500 in a box, and are then put into cases, and finally into big boxes, ready for shipment to all parts of the world. The white birch toothpicks are said to be very neat and clean in appearance and sweet to the taste.

THE BIGGEST CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE WORLD.

Signor Sonzogno, the enterprising and philanthropic editor of the *Secolo* daily newspaper in Milan, got up last year a Christmas tree for the poor children in that city. His success was so great that he was enabled to give a treat to 14,000 of them. This year (writes the San Remo correspondent of the *Scotsman*) he undertook the same work, intimating that he wished 80,000 objects, in order to give 20,000 poor children under ten years of age four articles each—namely, an article of dress, a toy, a piece of sweetmeat, and a piece of fruit. From the first day that this intimation appeared in the pages of this journal until last Monday gifts for the "tree" in money and kind poured in upon him. These came not only from the wealthier families and shops in Milan, but from all parts of Italy, and even from Tripoli and far-off Massana. The Theatre Canobbiana was granted for the distribution of the gifts on Christmas day. A tree, a veritable giant mountain pine, fitted "to be the mast of some tall admiral," was set up on the stage, its top lost in the blue gauze sky. A family of smaller trees stood round and round the theatre, which, with flowers, statues, and fountains, was transported into a veritable "paradise." Twenty-two thousand tickets, the gift of a Milanese printer, had been distributed amongst the poorest children in the town. At nine o'clock on Christmas morning the doors of the theatre were thrown open, and from that hour till six o'clock in the evening a continuous stream of children poured into the building.

BRITISH BUTTONS IN A BAD WAY.

The various branches of the button trade at Birmingham (says the *Birmingham Gazette*) are in a comparatively depressed condition. Up to the end of the half-year manufacturers had been exceptionally busy, and the machinery was kept in full operation, but since then orders have come to hand very slowly, and except for Government work, which is in steady request, there is very little doing. Competition is very keen, and large quantities of cheap German goods, chiefly imitations of ivory, are being imported at prices which undersell local ofirms. Some of the leading establishments are not keeping more than a third of their machinery in operation.

A fine literary flavour (the *Sheffield Telegraph* observes) pervades the list of Anglo-Egyptian officers who took part in the relief of Suakin. In one batch, for instance, were to be found Shakspeare, Besant, and Lewis.

On dit that the proprietors of a certain beverage paid a thousand pounds to have it mentioned by a popular actor playing at a popular West-end theatre.

Mr. Sheehan, M.P., was found guilty at Killarney yesterday of conspiracy, but was allowed out to come up for judgment when called upon, the prisons' doctor having certified that any imprisonment would endanger his life.

At Castleconnell yesterday, Mr. Finucane, M.P., was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for inciting to intimidation.

After being installed as mayor of Clonmel yesterday, Mr. Condon, M.P., was served with four summonses charging him with offences under the Crimes Act.

During a football match at Kirkcaldy yesterday, a young man, belonging to the district, broke his leg, and an Edinburgh player his collar-bone. Both were carried off the field on stretchers.

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

THE REVIEWS FOR JANUARY.

THERE is nothing very striking in any of the reviews this month; but there is a large number of fairly good articles, and these are so evenly distributed amongst the three that it is hard to decide which is the best. We say the three; for the *National* is as dull as ever, and altogether "out of it," whilst the *Westminster* reaches us too late to be included in this notice.

"THE FORTNIGHTLY."

On the whole, however, we think that the *Fortnightly* stands first. Two of its chief articles we have noticed already—Lord Wolseley's prediction of the noiseless wars of the future, and Mr. H. H. Johnston's ingenious and ingenuous plea for Cannibalism. In literature the *Fortnightly* is very strong: having articles by Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Oscar Wilde, Mr. J. A. Symonds, and Mr. Gosse. The most important of these is Mr. Symonds's comparison between "Elizabethan and Victorian Poetry"; the most entertaining, Mr. Wilde's sketch—written to show that "there is no essential incongruity between crime and culture"—of Charles Lamb's friend Thomas Griffiths Wainewright, distinguished alike with "Pen, Pencil, and Poison." This extraordinary man, who was a forger of great skill and a poisoner of unequalled subtlety, was also a distinguished critic, and the earliest writer of "Telegraphese." How irresistible was his passion for beauty is well exemplified by the answer he gave when reproached for the murder of his sister-in-law. "Yes," he said, "it was a dreadful thing to do, but she had very ugly ankles." His life was one of extraordinary fluctuations; but it is interesting to know, in these days of reviving Wordsworthianism, that the writings of that poet "did much towards calming the confused whirl necessarily incident to sudden mutations," and that he "wept over them tears of happiness and gratitude." A similar confession will be remembered in Mill's Autobiography. It is not every poet who can boast of having exercised an equally soothing effect on poisoners and philosophers. Mr. Symonds contrasts Elizabethan poetry—marked by native freshness, by dramatic form, and by unity of style—with Victorian, marked by contemplative criticism, by the lyrical note, and by individuality. Here are the passages which he selects from the latter as "the leading phrases, the master notes, of the whole music":—

> "Thoughts that too often lie too deep for tears."
> "The still, sad music of humanity."
> "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought."
> "Tears from the depth of some divine despair."
> "Seek, seeker, in thyself, submit to find
> In the stones bread and life in the blank mind."

Mr. Swinburne reviews Victor Hugo's "Toute la Lyre," with copious quotations and a running commentary of praise of the great master whose "magical quality of living music" sets him beside Coleridge or Shakspeare. As a relief from so much adulation, Mr. Swinburne allows himself this footnote of characteristic abuse:—

> I may add that Mr. Arnold himself, even when writing on Shelley or on Burns, hardly showed such depth of incompetence, combined with such shallowness of apprehension, as Sainte-Beuve when writing on Villon.

We for our part may add that Mr. Swinburne further declares Matthew Arnold to have been as ignorant of Irish politics as of French poetry: see how these Unionists love one another! Mr. Gosse, writing on "Ibsen's Social Dramas," notes some interesting points of agreement, in their social views, between Ibsen and Tolstoi. Mr. George Curzon's "Visit to Bokhara the Noble" is chiefly interesting for his sketch of Dr. Heyfelder, who was chief of the medical staff in Skobeleff's Turcoman campaign, and who now acts the part of earthly providence to the people of Bokhara:—

> It would be hard to exaggerate the part which his manners and generosity have played in the pacification of this whilom haunt of fanaticism. As early as six in the morning people crowd into the Embassy to see him. Very often so childish is their faith that they do not ask for a prescription, but simply implore his touch. . . . A fat old Beg, he told me, came to him one day and said: "Can you make me better? I suffer from eating four dinners a day." "Certainly," said the doctor, "eat three." Thereupon the old gentleman became very angry, and retorted, "How can I eat less when I am called upon to entertain venerable foreigners?" I asked the doctor whether it was out of benevolence that he continued to reside in Bokhara. "Yes," he replied, "and as a pioneer of civilization."

The element of the eternities without which no modern review considers itself complete is supplied by two articles, on lines curiously but no doubt unconsciously parallel, by Mr. Frederic Harrison and Mr. Mallock respectively. Mr. Harrison, writing on "The Future of Agnosticism," says that Agnosticism is only a temporary, because a negative, phase. "The only true antithesis to a religion of figments is a religion of realities, not a denial of the figments." The Agnostic position will soon become "an axiom of ordinary thought," and then the world will lose no time in embracing, says Mr. Harrison, the Religion of Humanity. They will do no such thing, replies Mr. Mallock ("The Scientific Bases of Optimism"). For even if the idea of progress were a true one (which it is not) it would only be a creed, not a religion—that is, it would be a creed untouched with emotion, for to the average man the progress of Humanity is not quick enough or distinct enough to move him at all: "Events that are going to happen three thousand years hence will hardly be more to us than events which happened three thousand years ago."

THE "NINETEENTH CENTURY."

The *Fortnightly*, as will have been seen from our summary, respects the Recess, and keeps clear of politics. In the *Nineteenth Century* Lord Charles Beresford takes us back to Parliament at once by repeating his masterly speech on the Deficiencies of the Navy, which we summarized fully on its first delivery (December 13). Mr. Gladstone's review of O'Connell's life is chiefly interesting for his candid and complete retractation of his early prejudices against O'Connell, "which were established in me, not by conviction, but by tradition and education." Perhaps the nineteenth century will not close without a similar palinode on the character of Mr. Parnell. The Duke of Argyll's article, called "Isolation, or Survival of the Unfittest," is an attack on "the barbarous ignorance and wasteful customs" of the Hebrideans. If the Duke had read carefully a recent article in these columns on the self-contained prosperity of St. Kilda, he would have been spared some of his uncharitable errors. Mr. Frederic Harrison writes a deservedly eulogistic review of Mr. Bryce's "'American Commonwealth," and contrasting it with the works of Maine and others calls attention to "the gulf which separates an acute student of political literature from an experienced observer of political institutions." Another observer of political institutions figures in the *Nineteenth Century* in the person of Mr. E. W. Beckett, M.P., who throws some "Australian Side-lights on English Politics." Some of his lights tell, as Mr. Beckett says, in favour of Conservative views, and some in favour of Liberal. For instance: Payment of members, he says, is a dead failure; free education, a success. We are not sure that we ought not to add secular education: since non-secular education in New South Wales is less successful in diminishing crime than secular education in Victoria. In the social sphere the Earl of Meath draws up a programme (State colonization, prevention of pauper emigration, technical education, labour colonies, shorter hours of work) for filling the "thousand more mouths every day" that come into England empty, and Miss Maude Stanley gives some eminently practical hints on the way to start and manage "Clubs for Working Girls." Mrs. Kingscote gives an interesting inside view (from the letter of a pupil) of the life led by "A Brahmin School Girl" at the school established by the Maharajah of Mysore. Mr. J. G. Alger, in a short article which the Stuart Exhibition makes "actual," describes "The Posthumous Vicissitudes of James II."—that is, of his mortal remains, and more especially of his brain. Mr. Oscar Wilde's Dialogue on "The Decay of Lying" is a lament over the seriousness of modern fiction. Even Mr. Rider Haggard, he says, "who really has, or had once, the makings of a perfectly magnificent liar, now feels bound to invent a personal reminiscence, and to put it into a footnote as a kind of cowardly corroboration." The dialogue is brightly written; and as one is bound to suppose that Mr. Wilde's practice is on a par with his precept, one not only need not believe what he says, but is under no compulsion to believe that Mr. Wilde believes it. Finally, Dr. Jessopp makes a suggestion, which we hope antiquarians will take up, for the utilization of cathedrals as local record offices. Dr. Jessopp should put himself into communication with the Dean of Winchester, who has already done valuable work in the direction indicated.

"THE CONTEMPORARY."

The most interesting article here, if it had not already appeared in the *Times*, would have been Sir Frederick Leighton's Liverpool address on "The Art of England." Next to it in interest comes Mrs. Emily Crawford's personal and critical account of "Emile Zola," from which we quoted a day or two ago. Here is a curious reminiscence of Zola's schooldays:—

> The subject given for a class theme was blind Milton dictating to his eldest daughter while his youngest played the lute. The paper Zola wrote is lost. But the professor of literature, Lavasseur—now a member of the Institute—was delighted with it, read it to the class as something far above the other essays, and prophesied that its author, if he devoted himself to literature, would conquer celebrity. What "l'élève Zola" knew of John Milton I cannot imagine. It would be interesting to know how he showed appreciation of the chaste and majestic Puritan poet.

The concluding paper of Sir M. E. Grant-Duff's "Winter in Syria" is chiefly taken up with Jerusalem. Cook's tourists will be glad to know that "you may see the city sufficiently well in a week," and "walk round the walls before breakfast." The chief thing that will strike you on such a walk is "the masterstroke of policy" on David's part in the selection of Jerusalem to be his capital. This is his real claim to distinction, and not the Book of Psalms, "nearly all of which were really the 'Hymns Ancient and Modern' of the Second Temple, although microscopic examination may here and there discover something which actually proceeded from his pen." Mr. J. A. Picton, M.P. for Leicester, makes the most on behalf of his constituency—as he was well entitled to do—of the anti-vaccination article in the new volume. The "Encyclopædia Britannica" Julia Wedgewood makes nothing very definite that we can discover of "The Cambridge Apostles of 1830." Indeed, after reading her hazy praise of Maurice and the others, one is most reminded of Clough's lines:

> To finger idly some old Gordian knot,
> Unskilled to sunder and too weak to cleave,
> And with much toil attain to half-believe.

In the field of politics, the Duke of Argyll replies to Mr. Harrison's appeal published last month. This fiery controversialist promises at the outset "to say nothing and assume nothing as regards the character of individuals," and winds up with denouncing the said individuals for "obliquitous" conduct in "debauching opinion" and "quibbling away the Decalogue." Mr. Joseph Thomson speaks with all the weight of personal knowledge on the shameless surrender to Germany, and on its disastrous effects, in East Africa; Mr. Dunckley, in "Two Political Centenaries," points out how "we have done in a hundred years what the French National Assembly did in a day," and invokes our "sympathy for a great nation who a hundred years ago lighted the torch of freedom at our fires"; and Mr. Osborne Morgan pleads for extensive devolution to Standing Committees as the only way out of the existing "Chaos in the House of Commons."

"THE NATIONAL."

This review fully sustains its character for dulness and lack of distinction. We may, however, call attention to Captain Willoughby Verner's suggestion that the best form of coast defence would be the mounting of machine guns at all likely landing-places. Finally, for a specimen of fine old crusted Tory prejudices, we may commend our readers to an article by Lady Magnus—of all people!—against the "Higher Education of Women." Lady Magnus wants all the high schools and colleges to shut their doors and to reopen as "Select Seminaries where Young Ladies are prepared in all the Man-catching Arts: Special Classes for Eligible Matrimonial Alliances." Lady Magnus clearly objects to anything that recognizes that women have minds and souls of their own. We respect her courage; but has she any authority for saying that in the case of ladies' colleges "a surfeit of Xenophon and zoology" leads to "a reactionary relapse into Zola"? If she had written that in the Oxford *Undergraduate* she would have been sent down—with her very artless alliterations and all.

PICTURE EXHIBITION IN THE PAMPERED EAST.

THE BLACK-AND-WHITES AT ST. JUDE'S. BY A WEST-ENDER.

IT is true that in no part of London are there so many of the poor, and of what is known as the lower middle class, as in Whitechapel. But it is equally true that in no other quarter of the metropolis do the people have so much done for their instruction, improvement, and amusement. At St. Jude's, or Toynbee Hall, alone, they are given opportunities for which we of the West-end cannot but envy them. There, for example, Mr. Huxley, Mr. Andrew Lang, or Mr. Tadema, whom we find it almost impossible to hear for love or money, lecture to the workman for nothing; there the costermonger, without charge and in one exhibition, can look at pictures to see which the student of the West must expend hours of tramping from gallery to gallery, and shilling after shilling for tickets. Almost always the Easter picture exhibitions at St. Jude's are of far wider range and more artistic importance than any one show at the Royal Academy or the Grosvenor Gallery; and never, to my knowledge, in any gallery in London has there been shown such an interesting collection of black-and-white work as that which now covers the walls of the schoolrooms.

The exhibition includes both ancient and modern work. In it are to be found woodcuts after Albert Dürer and by Hendrik Goltzius, and process blocks which have been published in the *Century*. The black-and-white drawings of Rubens in their reproductions can be contrasted with those of Mr. Abbey. There are etchings as far apart as those of Rembrandt from Méryon's. The old woodcuts are of unquestionable interest. Those after Rubens's wonderful drawings, kindly lent by Mr. William Walker, would of themselves make the exhibition worth seeing; but it is above all for the modern work in which black-and-white art is seen in its most perfect stage of development that the collection is of value. Many of the best black-and-white men of the day are represented. Mr. Abbey and Mr. Parsons have sent a number of the drawings made for "She Stoops to Conquer," already published both in *Harper's Magazine* and in book form, and exhibited last year by the Fine Art Society. The original Dickens and Thackeray drawings by Mr. Fred. Barnard have been lent by Messrs. Cassell and Co. Mr. Joseph Pennell exhibits for the first time, if I am not mistaken, original drawings made by him for the *Century*, the Badminton Cycling book and his own "Sentimental Journey." The only French drawings are a few by Paul Renouard, while almost all the engravings and photogravures of French work are made from paintings; no modern Spanish drawings are shown; and of modern German black-and-white work a few reproductions of Menzel's charcoal and crayon drawings alone are to be found. It would add enormous interest to the exhibition were there original drawings by Menzel, for with his work it may truly be said that modern illustration originated.

An endeavour, not very successfully sustained, has been made to lend practical importance to the show. Two printing presses are at work, which will give the people of Whitechapel some idea of how book illustrations are printed. There is at least one case of electros from which they may gather further information on the subject. But if they come to be taught, as well as to be amused, they will derive most instruction from those drawings which have been sent with their reproductions. These are really practical illustrations of the methods and objects of black-and-white drawings. Thus, side by side with Mr. Pennell's drawings are the very much reduced photo-engravings which were published from them. Mr. Du Maurier not only sends his drawings for this year's *Punch* Almanac, with their accompanying proofs, but he has also hung with them the pages from *Punch* on which they were printed. Mr. Heywood Sumner, too, exhibits the originals and the printed sheets of his Besom-maker. All this is eminently practical and useful, and the entire exhibition might have been made equally so by a little discretion on the part of the compilers of the catalogue. A few simple words of technical explanation about the drawings and their reproduction would be of much more benefit to visitors to St. Jude's than fine writing about their subjects. Some of the older woodcuts are accompanied by a short description of the manner in which they were made, but such a description of modern methods of reproduction would be far more useful, since woodcutting is a thing of the past. For it is a surprise to us to read in the *Preface* that wood engraving attained its highest excellence under Albert Dürer and was revived by Bewick: we have always been taught to believe that Albert Dürer did not engrave his own drawings; that Bewick was an artist who *cut* his own designs on wood, and did not engrave them at all; and that wood engraving is an art which has only come into existence within the last comparatively few years.

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STORIES OF ROYAL CHILDREN.

IN the January number of *Little Folks* the first of a series of articles is published which, under the heading of "Childlife at the Courts of Europe," promises to become an interesting feature in the new year's volume. The present article deals with some Royal children of Germany, and opens with an amusing anecdote about Prince Henry, the brother of the present Emperor.

"UNWASHED—UNSALUTED."

When he was a little boy, Prince Henry had a great dislike to the shower-bath which he was expected to take every morning, and was often very tiresome about it. At last the attendant complained to his father, who, you know, was then Crown Prince, and afterwards became the Emperor Frederick. Now, the Crown Prince happened to know that his little boy took quite as much delight in seeing the soldiers present arms to him as my little boy thinks he would; so he gave two new orders that day—one was that the guards were not to salute Prince Henry, the other was that the boy need not have his shower-bath. Accordingly the next morning the little Prince was surprised and charmed to find that the moment he began grumbling about the bath he was told he could please himself as to whether he took it or not. Of course he preferred to leave it alone, and as soon as he was dressed he scampered down to the park, and then to the guard-house, as usual. To his great amazement, the soldiers took no more notice of him than if he had been a little street boy. Highly indignant, Prince Henry ran to his father to complain. 'Oh!' replied the latter, 'how can you expect soldiers to respect a dirty, unwashed Prince?'"

A MAN AT THE AGE OF SIX.

There is also an amusing story about the little Crown Prince, who is now nearly seven years old. "When he was six, he was given a bedroom to himself, instead of sleeping in the nursery; and what do you think he said when he was first taken to his new room? 'Oh! that is nice; now I need not be with the children any more!' He seems a manly little fellow, for he complained one day it is very unpleasant to have to go out with his governess, because she could not march at all, and he could not keep step with her. Then he added, very seriously, that he was quite sure she would never make a soldier."

FOUR HEIRS OF THE NATION OF SOLDIERS.

The Crown Prince and his three brothers—Frederick, Adalbert, and Augustus William, aged respectively five years, four years, and nearly two years love to play at soldiers. They have a splendid collection of tin soldiers, horses, guns, and fortresses; and an old soldier, who fought many a real battle, teaches them how to drill them all, and how to fight with them. The soldiers are painted like the different regiments, and the three eldest boys are dressed in uniform when they play with them. They do not go to school, but they have a kind tutor, Herr Schubart, who has taught the two eldest to read and write. In the summer of 1888 the Princes had a delightful holiday with their mother at a beautiful place called Oberhof, in the great forest of Thuringia. A little fortress was built for them in a corner of the garden, with a tent and two small guns. The three eldest Princes, who were dressed as officers, paraded in front of the fort. Then, while the Crown Prince beat the drum, the two younger ones marched past, commanded by an old soldier, who taught them how to attack and to defend the fort. The other little prince, who was only about a year and a half old, was dressed in white, with a tiny helmet on his head. He looked on at his nurse's side and clapped his hands with delight as he saw his brothers playing. When little Prince William's grandfather died, he asked at once, "Did grandpapa take his sword with him?" and when he was taken into the room where the Emperor lay he said: "Ah! that's right; he always carries his sword wherever he goes. I am glad he did not leave it behind."

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

A SYNDICATE IN SLATE.

One by one our industries appear to be doomed to fall under the sway of syndicates. The slate quarries of North Wales are, it is reported, to be united and worked as one concern; and the writing slate manufacturers are to be similarly combined. Negotiations are now in progress with this view. Apparently, the financial mind sees money in the idea, whatever the ultimate effect on the industries of the country may be.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NITRATE TRADE.

The free introduction of British capital into nitrate works and railways in South America is expected to tell to a larger extent in the near future in the way of increased production than it has done during the past year, scarcity of labour and coal having for a time retarded development. The total exports from all the nitrate ports during 1888 is estimated to reach 760,000 tons, against about 700,000 tons during last year. The production in 1888, it is estimated, exceeds the exports by about 100,000 tons, the production during the second half of the year being reported at the rate of about 900,000 tons per annum. The consumption of nitrates is on the increase, and as there is but little augmentation in the visible supply as compared with last year, holders of cargoes for early spring arrival are maintaining prices.

THE PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

The expansion in trade which we noted in our review of the year on Monday has not been accompanied by any general advance in the prices of commodities. The most marked movement has been in finished iron and steel for shipbuilding purposes, the reason being that the demand has exceeded the production. In the inverse way—the production being ahead of the demand—pig iron is lower than it was at this time last year. Steel rails have advanced during the last half of the year, but there is no improvement on twelve months ago. Owing to the break in the tin syndicate, the price of that metal has dropped from £167 per ton to £98. Copper and lead are also lower despite the corners in these metals. The raw materials from textile manufacturers stand at about the same level, with the exception of hemp, which has bounded up from £37 10s. to £51 per ton as the result of American speculation; and jute, which has risen £2 to £17 per ton, the consequence of larger consumption and smaller crops. Tallow, manipulated by another corner, has risen 8s. to 34s. 6d. per cwt. Sugar and coffee, which fell away during the year have regained the level of last January, but tea has fallen. Of cereals wheat stands about where it did, but barley has receded about 3s. per quarter. If nothing interrupts the further expansion in trade prices are pretty certain to move upwards.

WHAT IS CHEESE?

In recent months there have been several prosecutions in Liverpool because of the sale of cheese imported from America which contained a considerable proportion of foreign fat. Similar action has been taken in the Glasgow sheriff court, but the impugned article in this instance is of native manufacture. Skim-milk cheese having become unsaleable, the makers have sought to improve it by adding cow fat, which compensates for the cream that is taken away, and makes the cheese soft and more digestible. It is sold very cheaply, the retail price being 4d. per lb. The prosecution did not allege that the cheese was unwholesome, or that it was sold above its value, but the contention was that when a purchaser asked for cheese he was entitled to get cheese that was made entirely from milk. As nothing was done "fraudulently to increase the bulk, weight, or measure of the food or drug, or conceal the inferior quality thereof," it was decided not to convict.

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FROM AN EXILE WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM WESTERN SIBERIA.

I do not know how to thank you for your article, which we have read with enthusiasm, nor to tell you with what feverish impatience we await the others. Such articles will have for Russia at least historical importance, and you are working in the interest of all humanity.

The JANUARY NUMBER contains "The Life of an Exile."

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31st December, 1888.

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Printed and Published by RICHARD LAMBERT, at the Office, 2, Northumberland-street, Strand, in the Parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, in the County of Middlesex.—WEDNESDAY, January 2, 1889.